

Olmert says Palestinians want W. Jerusalem land

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Ehud Olmert, accused the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday of violating agreements with Israel by trying to gain title to a West Jerusalem plot slated for a future U.S. embassy.

"We have been warning for a long time that the Palestinian authority is methodically infiltrating deep into Jerusalem," Mr. Olmert said on Israel TV.

The plot has been mentioned as a possible site for a U.S. embassy. Under British mandate rule, which ended in 1948, it was used by the British army.

Waving documents in Arabic, Mr. Olmert said unspecified Arabs claiming the property had granted power of attorney to the Palestinian autonomy government to sue for rights to the land.

In the past the Islamic trust, or Waqf, that administers Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the West Bank, has claimed ownership of the plot. Its size was not immediately known.

Some U.S. politicians said they would support moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the western part of Jerusalem.

Arab leaders warn such a move would harm Washington's credibility as an impartial broker in Mideast peace talks. Negotiations on the final status of the city are to begin next year.

What is on the agenda is if we want Yasser Arafat, our friend," to take control not only over East Jerusalem, but also over the west," Mr. Olmert said.

In a separate interview, the mayor said Israel should better justify its hold on East Jerusalem by ending years of neglect and allocating hundreds of millions of dollars to improve the lot of the city's Palestinian residents.

A municipal report said Jerusalem's Palestinian residents had insufficient sewage and firefighting systems and poor school facilities. Garbage collection, postal and rescue services were hampered by poor roads that prevented access, it said.

The cost of balancing those services to those of Jerusalem's Jewish residents

would reach 250 million shekels (\$85 million) and hundreds of millions of shekels more for infrastructure, the report said.

In a reversal of roles, the headline mayor said the money should be made available and blamed Yitzhak Rabin's dovish government for denying funding.

"I said to the finance minister on more than one occasion that I will give up every cent increase in the (Jewish) western sector — just give me something in the eastern sector," Mr. Olmert said. "You are the government of peace."

The results, he said: "Nothing."

Mr. Olmert said the appeals for better services by hotel owners, merchants and others in East Jerusalem should be met because they implied recognition of Israeli control over the sector.

But Faisal Husseini, the top PLO official in charge of Jerusalem, denied Palestinians were recognising Israel's "sovereignty" when they appealed to the municipality for services.

"We are not accepting the annexation, but... if I want to build a house I must ask for permission," Mr. Husseini said in a news conference.

Jewish settler leaders on Monday warned of violence, even between Israelis, if Palestinian autonomy is extended throughout the West Bank.

Speaking to reporters after a rare meeting with Mr. Rabin, they accused the government of doing too little to guarantee the safety of 135,000 Israelis living in the area.

If Israel goes through with an emerging deal to transfer parts of the West Bank to PLO control, "it is only a matter of time before clashes ensue," said settler spokesman Yehiel Leiter.

"It will begin with clashes between Arabs and Arabs. It will escalate into clashes between Arabs and Jews and ultimately the result will be clashes between Jews and Jews," he said.

"Rabin has said that the army would postpone withdrawing from two Palestinian cities, Ramallah and Bethlehem, until bypass roads for settlers were built.

7 dead in clashes between Libyan police and Islamists

CAIRO (AFP) — Four policemen and three Islamists have been killed in clashes in the Libyan coastal city of Benghazi, the Arabic daily Al Hayat reported Tuesday.

Police raided a farm owned by "unidentified" outside Benghazi, east of Tripoli, said the London-based Al Hayat, quoting a newspaper run by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) in Algeria.

In ensuing shootout, four police were killed and their commanding officer severely wounded. One of the Islamists was also badly hurt.

In a separate incident Islamists in east Libya shot at police attempting to arrest them, but three were killed in a return of fire, the GIA paper Al Ansar said.

Al Ansar did not specify when the two incidents took place.

Western diplomats in Tripoli said Libyan police conducted a wave of arrests against Islamists in the Benghazi region in late June after one of their leaders escaped from a hospital.

The main opposition faction, the Libyan National Salvation Front (LNSF), based in Cairo, has said dozens of Libyans were killed or wounded in clashes with police in several northeastern cities.

Fighting was still going on on Friday, LNSF representatives said.

Early in July the Libyan parliament granted "reinforced powers to the Justice Ministry... to stop with force if necessary organised crime, drugs and heresy," a term used to refer to Islamic militants.

Libyan leader Mohammad Qadhafi has often denounced Arab Islamists and has met twice with his Algerian counterpart, Lamine Zeroual in September 1994 and last April.

Libya on Monday called on neighbouring Algeria to step up its fight against Islamic extremists, including the GIA, which have been waging a three-year battle against the government leaving at least 30,000 dead.



ELECTIONS: Women gather outside a polling centre on Tuesday, making sure they are carrying their identity

documents ahead of voting in Jordan's first nationwide municipal elections (Photo by Youssef Allan)

Militants blow up Algerian gas pipeline

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Militants have blown up a gas pipeline in eastern Algeria supplying the capital Algiers, local newspapers said on Tuesday.

"About midnight (between Sunday and Monday) a roaring explosion followed by a tremendous explosion shocked sleeping people within a radius of 50 km," L'Opinion daily reported, adding that some people believed the blast was an earthquake or an erupting volcano.

The Liberté paper said a group of armed militants planted a home-made bomb under the gas pipeline near Agmar village, some 90 kilometres east of Algiers.

It said the blast caused a big crater and damaged the pipeline along an 18-metre stretch.

"In the night, the fire's flames have been seen from Tizi Ouzou and Bumerdes," Liberté added. Bumerdes is some 40 kilometres away from the blast scene.

Security forces, firefighters and a gas pipeline monitoring team reached the blast scene and got the fire under control avoiding a "catastrophe," La Tribune daily said.

"The Kadaria region and neighbouring area like Djebahia had witnessed bad moments of violence in the past," it added.

Officials from the domestic gas company Sonelgas and the oil and gas firm Sonatrach were not immediately available for comment on Tuesday.

But an Algiers hotel official said Sonelgas had cut gas supplies as of Monday.

The Arabic-language newspaper Al Khabar said the damage was significant but all newspapers said there were no casualties.

In a separate attack, armed militants stormed on Sunday night a petrol station in Bida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers and blew it up, El Watan newspaper reported. It said there were no casualties.

Algerian authorities have said sabotage by militants has cost the country more than \$2 billion.

More than 40,000 people have been killed in Algerian

violence pitting Muslim guerrillas against government troops since army-backed authorities three years ago cancelled general election which Islamists were poised to win.

Meanwhile, the extremist Armed Islamic Group (GIA) issued death threats against leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) for opening a dialogue with the Algerian government, the daily Al Hayat reported on Tuesday.

"No dialogue, no truce, no reconciliation and no mercy for apostates," the GIA said in a communiqué received by the London-based Arab paper, which is received in Cairo.

"Anyone moving to create dialogue with the apostates to return to political work condemns himself to death," the communiqué, signed by GIA leader Abu Abdul Rahman Amin, said.

The GIA "called for the blood" of nine FIS leaders in a letter sent to the front's heads Abbas Madani and Ali Belhaj, said Al Hayat, adding that it could not confirm the authenticity of the communiqué.

The paper also cited Algerian sources saying that FIS sheikhs asked for a pause in their talks with the government of President Liamine Zeroual about possible participation in planned presidential elections.

The leaders wanted an opportunity to contact cadres in Algeria and abroad to update them on the talks' progress, the unnamed sources said.

The FIS has never confirmed reports that it has opened a dialogue with the government. Mr. Zeroual has demanded that the group halt all violence before it is allowed to participate in elections.

The GIA and the FIS military wing, the Islamic Salvation Army, have led the violence against the Algiers government.

The GIA, the most hard-line movement, is held responsible for the murder of civilians, including women and children for allegedly breaking strict Islamic Sharia law, as well as expatriates it accuses of cooperating with the regime.

Iraqi opposition to form new leadership

DAMASCUS (AP) — A senior Iraqi opposition figure said Sunday that the rebel alliance seeking to topple Saddam Hussein will shortly form a new "field leadership" to replace the Iraqi National Congress.

The umbrella group for anti-Saddam forces.

Bayan Jabr, a representative of the Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), told the Associated Press that consultations on the new leadership will begin July 21.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) had quoted Mr. Jabr as saying the leadership will be announced on that date. But he later explained to the AP that no date for the announcement has been set as the issue required prolonged consultations.

Mr. Jabr said assembly leader Hojatollah Mohammad Bakr Al Hakim will be in Syria July 21.

The Iraqi cleric, who heads the main Shiite Muslim group opposed to President Saddam, will attend a meeting of Damascus-based and London-based opposition groups.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), whose factions ranged from Islamic fundamentalists to communists and Kurdish rebels, lost much of its credibility in recent months because of internal squabbling and major clashes between the two main Kurdish factions who provide the backbone of its paramilitary forces.

INC officials in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq could not immediately be reached for comment.

Mr. Jabr did not identify who the new leaders might be.

He told KUNA that SCIRI has long been dissatisfied with the council's manoeuvring. It believes that the "pre-

vious political formations" within the INC, including "personalities with no roots inside Iraq, are not suitable to lead the opposition movement, especially after the events in Ramadan."

In May, Iraqi security forces crushed an unrest by the big Al Dulaimi tribe in Ramadi and other towns in Al Anbar province in western Iraq.

The violence flared after Baghdad executed several senior officers from that tribe, traditionally a key supporter of the regime, for plotting to assassinate President Saddam.

Later, Al Dulaimi clansmen led a mutiny by a battalion of the elite Republican Guard, a formation that is a pillar of the Baghdad regime, in Al Anbar.

It was quickly crushed. But the unrest among the Al Dulaimi and other Sunni tribes which have traditionally been loyal to the regime, has introduced a potentially dangerous new element into the opposition.

In his interview with the Kuwaiti agency, Mr. Jabr said the new leadership should have the ability "to stand by the movement of the army and the people that is expected to take place within the coming months."

He did not elaborate. But he indicated that emissaries sent by the assembly to the Al Dulaimi reported the tribal leaders have pledged to help to get rid of the regime.

Mr. Jabr denied reports that Mr. Hakim will move to Damascus because of Iranian pressure.

He did not explain that. But Iran and Iraq, both targeted by the Clinton administration as hostile states, have been showing signs of seeking a rapprochement in recent weeks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran rejects Arab stand on islands

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian official on Monday rejected a statement by eight Arab states backing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its dispute with Iran over three Gulf islands. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said the islands belonged to Iran "eternally" but the Islamic Republic welcomed direct talks with the UAE to clear up any "misunderstandings," Tehran Radio said.

He rejected the final statement by the Arab Gulf war allies meeting in Manama on Sunday as "the repetition of certain issues without consideration for political, security and regional matters," the radio added. The foreign ministers of the Damascus declaration states — Egypt, Syria and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — urged Iran to directly negotiate a peaceful solution to the dispute with the UAE over the islands. The ministers also voiced support for the UAE to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice if Iran and the UAE failed to reach a negotiated solution.

Israel's worst fire was accidental — police

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A fire which ravaged 2,000 hectares of forest near Jerusalem on July 2 was ignited by the sun burning through a discarded bottle, according to police. Police chief Commander Arye Amit told parliament's interior committee on Monday that the magnifying effect did the damage on the hottest and driest day in Israel for 40 years. Desert winds whipped up the blaze and destroyed two million trees and forced the evacuation of seven villages.

Memorial for Sanjabi disrupted in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Islamic fundamentalists disrupted a memorial service for Karim Sanjabi, a former Iranian nationalist leader who died in exile in the United States, participants at the service said Tuesday. The illegal but tolerated Iranian Peoples' Party, which organised the memorial late Monday, denounced the "interference" of fundamentalists who "wanted to offend the participants" and disrupt the ceremony. The party said those attending chanted slogans supporting former Foreign Minister Sanjabi and Mohammad Mossadegh, a premier under the Shah in the 1950s. According to the party, the electricity was cut but the participants stayed until the end of the memorial at Khan Agha Mosque in central Tehran despite the intimidation. "The fundamentalists and security agents created a climate of terror," it charged in a statement in the press. Sanjabi, who was secretary general of the now illegal National Front, died on July 4 at the age of 90. He was one of the first leaders of the Shah's government to rally behind Ayatollah Khomeini. He was foreign minister in the interim government led by Mehdi Bazargan after the 1979 Islamic revolution, but he resigned because of differences with several Islamist ministers.

Cyprus court rejects dismissal of Britons' charges

NICOSIA (AP) — The supreme court Tuesday rejected a defence plea to dismiss the case against three British soldiers accused of murdering a Danish tour guide last September. The trial is now scheduled to open Monday before a lower court in the southern coastal town of Larnaca. The defence had claimed in a pre-trial objection that the defendants' constitutional rights were violated when prison guards confiscated confidential notes they prepared for their lawyers. The 10-man high court ruled that it should be up to the lower court during the course of the trial to consider the consequences of the confiscation. The supreme court decision culminated a series of legal objections that prevented the opening of the trial for eight months. The three soldiers are Justin Fowler, 26, Alan Ford, 26 and Jeff Parnell, 23. They are accused of killing Louise Jensen, a 23-year-old tour guide from Hirtshals, Denmark, after kidnapping her in the southern tourist resort of Ayia Napa.

Israel seeking to import Egyptian oranges

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel wants to buy Egyptian citrus in order to supplement a shortage due to increased Israeli exports to Eastern Europe, agriculture ministry officials said Tuesday. Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur went to Egypt on Monday to work out the details of such an arrangement. It would be the first time Israel would allow the import of citrus. Egypt has already agreed in principle to export citrus to Israel. Mr. Tzur was to meet his Egyptian counterpart, Youssef Waly, during his two-day visit to discuss the price and ways to ensure fruit quality. "It would be the first time that Israel would be importing citrus fruit. We are, after all, one of the largest citrus producing countries in the region," said Ronny Hassid, spokesman for the agriculture ministry.

Chirac appeals for okaying EU-Turkey pact

STRASBOURG (R) — French President Jacques Chirac appealed to the European Parliament on Tuesday to ratify a customs union between Turkey and the European Union (EU), saying Ankara might otherwise turn away from the West. Reporting to the Strasbourg-based assembly on France's recently ended six-month EU presidency, he said: "We must not discourage Turkey's aspiration to be associated with Europe." Mr. Chirac said Ankara's European policy went hand-in-hand with efforts by Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to make her country more democratic and improve the protection of human rights. "If we reject this appeal, we run a double risk: Reinforcing the supporters of fundamentalism in Turkey, and driving this big neighbour, if it is disappointed by Europe, towards other forms of cooperation which he may later regret." Parliament is due to vote later this year on the customs pact, signed on March 6.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Problem Child
14:30 Super Champs
15:00 Tomorrow's World
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 Families
17:00 French Programmes
18:00 News in English
19:00 News Headlines
19:30

20:00 Anything for a Laugh
20:30 The Bird and the Beautiful
21:15 Blood and Belonging
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prison
23:30 The Jacksons

20:00 Arthur Clarke's Mysterious Universe
20:30 The Bird and the Beautiful
21:15 Blood and Belonging
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prison
23:30 The Jacksons

Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fair
05:34 (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
18:29 Maghrib
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiffah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637885
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrestrial Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623543.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625443.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 626329.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811205

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Cool weather conditions will prevail with temperatures below average. Scattered showers are expected in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Amman 15/28

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Police 191, 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 863390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 663800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 661100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakher Belbeus 664412
Dr. Khalidun Asfour 669440
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 898140
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 620115
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 626272
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmossam pharmacy 637661
Naroukh pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Akram Al Momani 248795
Al Ouds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hussein Bashaira 984344
Khalil pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/h
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 642417/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642352
Mishar, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 849445
Al-Mushar Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajra 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775117/26
Army, S.Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 662240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

IRBID:
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)905640
Al Hukm Modern Hospital (09)90990
Princess Basma Hospital (02)25555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)2275
Ibn Al-Nafisa Hospital (02)37100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)532045, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:10 Larnaca (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Madrid (RJ)
18:20 Beirut (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:20 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
19:35 Beirut (RJ)
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
01:20 Cairo (RJ)
02:25 Riyadh (add) (RJ)
02:45 Dhahran (add) (RJ)
03:00 Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:50 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
11:30 Jeddah (SV)
13:15 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi (QF)
17:45 London, Beirut (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:35 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:35 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
16:30 Colombo (RJ)
16:30 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
16:45 Beirut (RJ)
18:00 Riyadh (RJ)
18:15 New Delhi (RJ)
19:30 Dhahran (RJ)
19:35 Aden (RJ)
22:25 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Beirut (ME)
11:50 Athens (PK)
12:00 Athens (PK)
14:15 Jeddah (SV)
14:30 Cairo (MS)
16:30 Sharjah (GF)
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
21:20 Antalya (TK)
22:30 Sharjah (AH)
22:30 Dhahran (FK)
22:50 Larnaca (CY)
23:00 Sanaa (Y)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Apricot 600/400
Banana 600/400
Banana (Mukammal) 600
Cabbage 600
Carrot 100/50
Cauliflower 200/120
Cucumbers (large) 300/200
Cucumbers (small) 180/120
Eggplant 160/80
Garlic 650/450
Lemon 600/300
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 120/80
Mulika 120/80
Onion (dry) 750/600
Peas 170/100
Pepper (hot) 280/200
Pepper (sweet) 200/120
Potato 350/300
Soybean 270/180
Tomato 240/180
Watermelon 90/40

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:01 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

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Apple 700/500
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Garlic 650/450
Lemon 600/300
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 120/80
Mulika 120/80
Onion (dry) 750/600
Peas 170/100
Pepper (hot) 280/200
Pepper (sweet) 200/120
Potato 350/300
Soybean 270/180
Tomato 240/180
Watermelon 90/40

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Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday watches a Girl Guide perform one of the many physical activities planned by the Girl Guides Association for young girls from several Arab countries (Petra photo)

Princess Basma opens 10th Girl Guides camp

JERASH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opened the 10th Girl Guides scouting camp for youth from Arab countries and observed segments of its activities.

A total of 250 Girl Guides are taking part in the activities of the camp at the Dibbin National Park near Jerash.

Organised by the Ministry of Education, the camp's activities this year involve Girl Guides from Jordan, Iraq, Sudan and Palestine.

The Princess toured the camp and visited an exhibition displaying Girl Guides handicrafts and posters depicting the scout movement and its activities, and observed workshops on vocational training.

Visiting PNA members observe municipal election process

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat received at his office Tuesday a three-member delegation representing the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to discuss prospects of cooperation in municipal affairs between the two sides.

Mr. Thuheirat said that the delegation, whose members are preparing for elections in the self-rule areas, are here on a visit to examine arrangements for municipal elections held in Jordan and to benefit from the Jordanian experience in this field.

The minister told the delegation that Jordan will place its expertise and experience at the disposal of the PNA and welcomes officials to study the local government system in Jordan to familiarise themselves with ways of organising municipal elections.

The PNA team, which is led by Adnan Jaffal, director of the PNA's legal department, praised the special relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian people and complimented the Jordanian electoral system.

He said that Jordan, which has acquired valuable experience in municipal affairs and elections, can be of great benefit to the Palestinians in their efforts to organise elections of their own.



Women in the Hai Nazzal district of Amman Tuesday turn out to vote in Jordan's first nation-wide municipal elections (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

The PNA official said that his team was impressed with the preparations made for the municipal elections here, a factor which reflects the success of the democratic process in the Kingdom, he said.

The Palestinian delegation toured several voting centres while the municipal elections were in progress Tuesday and visited the main operations room at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to observe procedures.

Bay'at Al Imam group to face trial at State Security Court

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 13 people will be referred to the State Security Court to be formally charged with plotting terrorist attacks in Jordan in the latest case of attempted sabotage in Jordan, legal sources said Tuesday.

In addition to the 13, another five or six people will be sent to the civil court for trial for attempted attacks, according to the sources.

The group, known as Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance to the leader), was bust before it could actually carry out any attacks, said the sources.

According to the sources, the group had "sub-groups" which did not know of each other's existence.

The sources said those

under custody now include Asam Mohammad Daher, alias Abu Mohammad Al Magdesi, believed to be the leader of the group.

Bay'at Al Imam followers believed only themselves to be the "true followers" of the Islamic faith and did not attend mosque "prayers" or schools because they rejected the entire system, according to the sources.

Weapons and explosives were believed to have been found with the group. The charge sheet against them includes illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive material with the purpose of using it in an illegal activity.

The 13 suspects join at least eight others expected to be tried in separate cases when the State Security Court resumes sessions in September following a month-long holiday of the

judiciary. Among the others are two Jordanians accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat in March.

Others include members of two groups who were apprehended in the course of plotting subversion, according to the sources.

Salem Abdullah and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, the two accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gil Heime, a second secretary at the French embassy, will be charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal arms and explosives.

No immediate detail was available on whether the two assailants belonged to any organised group or what motivated them to stage the attack.

Reports in the local press said at that time that the two belonged to an extremist group

which opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and resented Israelis visiting Jordan.

It was one of the rare attacks on foreigners in Jordan and security sources described it as isolated incident.

Also pending are charges against at least six other people, all of them also suspected of plotting subversion in Jordan.

Some of them are members of a group called "Islamic Revival," which, according to reports in the Israeli press, was behind a recent infiltration across the northern Jordanian-Israeli borders.

Two of the infiltrators were shot dead and the third surrendered, Israeli reports said. There has no Jordanian confirmation of the Israeli reports.

Children's Congress to address environmental, future concerns

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 15th Arab Children's Congress is to open at the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman on July 18 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to an announcement by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The opening ceremony for the six-day annual event will include artistic performances by the brass bands of the Jordan Armed Forces as well as the participation of a large number of Jordanian children in folkloric dance and national songs, according to the announcement.

In this year's event children from Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Iraq and Egypt will

take part, said the announcement. The children will participate in workshops dealing with the scarcity of water, population growth, pollution and the protection of the environment, as well as forge concepts of a better and safer future, said the announcement.

They are also scheduled to visit historical and archaeological sites, including the ancient city of Petra and Um Qais in the north of Jordan; attend the opening of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts and visit the Haya Arts Centre, said the statement.

The children's schedule also includes visits to Jordanian families to learn

about their traditions and culture, according to the statement.

During the six-day event the NHF will be organising stamp display and national costumes exhibitions from the participating countries.

Initiated by Queen Noor in 1980, the Arab Children's Congress aims at bringing together Arab children from various parts of the region to participate in a programme of cultural activities, discussions and other functions.

The NHF said that the congress seeks to encourage the concept of Arab children belonging to one nation, one culture, and to enable the children to learn more about Jordan, its people and history.

Summer showers expected today

AMMAN (Petra) — Scattered showers can be expected today in the northern and central parts of the Kingdom, according to Meteorology Department sources.

The department also forecast a drop in temperatures to 28°C and 26°C in the eastern and western heights respectively.

Temperatures during the night are expected to drop to 15°C, the sources added.

Winds will be moderate, with a rise in humidity, except in the eastern desert where conditions will be dusty, said meteorologists.

On Thursday temperatures could rise again slightly, but they will remain below the normal summer average.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- * "The Birds," at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- * "The Civil War: Simply Murder, 1863," at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

DIALOGUE, LECTURES

- * Dialogue with Jordanian artist Adnan Yahyah, Dr. Ibrahim Najjar and art critic Mohammad Abu Zureik at Darat Al Furun, at 6:00 p.m.
- * Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Architecture of Hebron," by Dr. Farouk Yaghmour at Darat Al Furun at 8:00 p.m.
- * Lecture in Arabic entitled, "Where do threats to Gulf security come from?" by Dr. Yousef Hassan at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Works by Khdeir Shukraji at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- * Paintings by Muhannad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.
- * Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Furun Jabal Weibdeh.
- * Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges entitled "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, Garden Street.
- * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kaabneh leaves for official visit to France

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafez Marei Kaabneh Tuesday left on a several-day visit to France to attend the French republic's national celebrations of Bastille Day.

General Kaabneh was seen off upon departure by the Chief of Staff for Land Forces.

House discusses 1993 draft labour law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament today continues discussions on the 1993 draft labour law. The House has so far discussed and approved 97 out of the 145 articles of the draft law. The House will also refer several proposals by deputies on service-related issues to its Administrative Committee.

New tomato industry to start up in Mafrag

AMMAN (Petra) — A new tomato paste factory has been formed in Mafrag. The factory, which will become operational on Saturday July 15, will be ready to purchase tomatoes from farmers as of that date.

Jordan outlines position on continued support to refugees

CAIRO (Petra) — Director General of the Palestine Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ibrahim Tarshih, Monday said that recent contacts with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) donor nations should ensure the sufficiency of funds for the agency's services in its field operations.

Mr. Tarshih was speaking at a conference of supervisors of Palestinian affairs in Arab countries in Cairo.

Delegates to the conference represent Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the Arab League, as well as Jordan.

Jordan has hosted at least

40 per cent of Palestinian refugees since 1948.

In his address to the meeting, Mr. Tarshih recalled that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had addressed the Donor Nations Conference, held in Amman last March, urging these countries to provide sufficient funds to UNRWA to enable the organisation to fulfill its services to Palestinian refugees until a just solution to their situation has been arrived at and until a lasting and comprehensive peace has been established in the Middle East area.

UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen warned during a visit to Amman last May that the agency would be forced to cut some of its services if it did not receive funds to plug the \$16 million gap in its budget for 1995.

Mr. Tarshih was one of senior Jordanian officials who met Mr. Turkmen during his May visit and discussed the agency's services to nearly 1.2 million registered Palestinian refugees living in Jordan.

He said that since the 1948 war Jordan has been doing its best to help the refugee. The Kingdom is involved in discussions by the multilateral working group on refugees and the four-party

meetings grouping Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Egypt, in a bid to contribute to a just solution to the refugee problem.

The conference, which is due to end Thursday, is set to discuss several topics dealing with UNRWA's financial situation, services to the refugees, the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's measures to confiscate Arab land, the economic and social conditions of Arab people under occupation, Jewish immigration, Israel's seizure of water resources, the situation in Jerusalem and Israel's drive to Judaize the city.

lock," he said. "We cannot possibly mobilise the public to overthrow Palestinian President Yasser Arafat while we have sales tax laws and other crucial issues to fight for here."

"There has to be some sort of independence, and that is what we were fighting for, especially since the legalisation of political parties in 1992," he said. "We have to look at Jordan from a detached perspective."

Mr. Zibri said he will continue to be active in political life, but not through HASHD.

HASHD party to discuss Zibri resignation

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The resignation of Tayseer Zibri from the Jordan People's Democratic party (HASHD) this week has not been approved yet by the party's political bureau, but Mr. Zibri has said that his decision to resign is final.

In a statement issued on Monday and signed by its political bureau, the party said it was surprised by Mr. Zibri's decision and said his resignation should be discussed at a special meeting of the party's Central Com-

mittee. No comment was available from the party's political bureau on Tuesday, but the statement said a meeting on the matter will be held soon and Mr. Zibri would be invited.

Mr. Zibri, who had resigned several times in the past from the party's leadership, told the Jordan Times that his decision this time was irreversible.

He said he made several attempts in the past to mend differences but all those attempts ended in failure. The main point of disagreement, he said, was the

lack of independence of the Jordan-based party HASHD from its mother party, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), led by Nayef Hawatmeh and based in Syria.

"This story is old. But I hoped it would be solved with time," said Mr. Zibri. "Apparently it has not."

According to Mr. Zibri, several promises have been made by the DFLP in Syria to guarantee the full independence of the Jordanian party but none have been fulfilled.

"We've reached a dead-

Babies said among 65 dead in Sri Lanka church bomb

COLOMBO (R) — Thirteen babies were among the 65 dead found under the rubble of a Catholic church bombed by the Sri Lankan Air Force, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) official said Tuesday.

At least one bomb hit St. Peter's Church at Navali, north of the town of Jaffna during a major military operation against Tamil Tiger rebels, ICRC field coordinator Dominique Henry told Reuters.

Military spokesman Captain Tilak Dunuwila denied the air force had bombed the church.

"The air force is saying they haven't bombed that area. The air force only provides close air support, immediately in front of our troops," he said.

Rebel radio said the church was hit by nine bombs Sunday, the day the armed forces launched "Operation Leap Forward" against the stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Both the ICRC, which operates in the peninsula, and the Tigers said more than 100 people were injured.

The military had dropped leaflets warning civilians to seek refuge in temples and churches to minimise the chance of death or injury in air strikes.

"This is really a violation of humanitarian law if a civilian area has been deliberately targeted," Mr. Henry said, adding that he had no information on whether the attack was deliberate or an accident.

A Jaffna resident contacted by Reuters said St. Peter's stood in a populated area and had a large daily congregation. He was not aware of any obvious LTTE targets nearby.

Bishop Thomas Soundararajam of Jaffna condemned the bombing and wrote to President Chandrika Kumaratunga to ask her armed forces not to bomb churches, temples, schools and other public places. Tiger radio said.

It said the church was full of "displaced persons" at the time of the attack.

Tiger radio said the church bombing had brought the casualty toll to 150 civilians killed and hundreds wounded in the armed forces' current Operation Leap Forward offensive against the LTTE.

Mr. Henry agreed that at least 150 civilians had been killed. "Most of the people killed have been civilians," he said.

Tiger radio said Tuesday 63 children had been killed, according to statistics from the main Jaffna Hospital.

Two Sri Lankan army battle groups resumed their advance into the Jaffna peninsula at dawn Tuesday. "Troops resumed the advance at 6.30 a.m. (0100 GMT). Capt. Dunuwila said. "Fighting is going on but we have no details yet."

Tiger radio said 13 navy warships had arrived at the northern Kankesanur Harbour, escorted by helicopters and gunboats.

Five soldiers have been killed and 71 wounded since Sunday when four infantry brigades backed by tanks, artillery and air support thrust into rebel defences.

Troops repulsed a rebel attack on the army's flank around 4:00 a.m. (2230 GMT) Tuesday, the military spokesman said. Nine soldiers were wounded in the attack, he added.

Operation Leap Forward is aimed at wresting control of Jaffna from the Tigers, who

are fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war which has killed more than 50,000 people since 1983.

President Kumaratunga ordered the military Tuesday to investigate reports the air force bombed the packed Catholic Church in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Mrs. Kumaratunga telephoned the Archbishop of Colombo, Nicholas Marcus Fernando, to express her concern and ask whether the archbishop had any "authentic" information on the reports, the presidential secretariat said in a statement.

Mrs. Kumaratunga told the archbishop that, according to military reports, fighting was going on about three kilometres northwest of Navali and it was "unlikely any action by the security forces would have affected the church or its environs."

"The president also assured the archbishop that the on-going military operation was clearly aimed at liberating the people of Jaffna and accordingly the military had been given strict instructions to ensure maximum possible safety of the civilian population," the statement said.

Karachi insurgents say they will push for own province if talks fail

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Armed militants in the southern city of Karachi say they will push for their own ethnic province if peace talks with the government fail, an English-language newspaper reported Tuesday.

Ajmal Dehlvi, chief negotiator of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, said his group would not compromise on basic demands it plans to put forward in negotiations scheduled to begin here late Tuesday, according to the news.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking migrants who moved to Pakistan when India was divided in 1947, has been locked in an armed rebellion against the government in Karachi, capital of southern Sindh province and Pakistan's financial centre.

The MQM's basic demands call for a more equal share of power and opportunities for the Mohajirs, or migrants, who make up about 70 per cent of Karachi's 12 million population.

"Should the talks fail, a province would be demanded, making Sindh's division inevitable," Mr. Dehlvi told the newspaper.

More than 1,000 people have been killed this year in ethnic and political violence in the nation's largest city.



Activists of Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) carry the coffin of their slain leader Aslam Subzwari for burial in central district of strife-torn city of Karachi. Thousands of MQM supporters participated in Subzwari's funeral ceremony, who was killed in police custody. The MQM decided to call off its strike as a gesture of goodwill for the parleys with the government (AFP photo)

'I did a bad thing,' Grant says

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — British actor Hugh Grant said Monday that despite his arrest for lewd conduct with a prostitute, he and live-in model actress girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley would "try and work it out." The raffish 34-year-old actor whose character bumbled his way into love in the box-office hit *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, was arrested here June 27 after what police said was a sex act with a known prostitute in his white BMW. In his first television appearance since the arrest, NBC's *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno's first question to Grant was "What were you thinking?" "It's not easy, um.... The thing is that um, people give me tonnes of ideas on this one," Grant mumbled and demurred, very much in his sheepish *Four Weddings* character's style. "I keep reading new psychological theories, and stuff like that—I was under pressure, I was tired, I was lonely, I fell down the stairs when I was a child," he said, but "I think it would be bollocks, really to hide behind that... I did a bad thing, there you have it." Asked about his reaction to the public interest in the story, Grant said "I can see where if I hadn't been the person who perpetrated this whole thing, I suppose I would be enjoying it as much as anyone else. But it's pretty miserable on the other side of the equation." Grant left London for Los Angeles to promote his new film *Nine Months* late Sunday after spending the weekend with Hurley, 29, an Esteé Lauder cosmetics spokeswoman. "I've done an abominable thing, and she's been amazing about it," Grant said. "Contrary to what I read in the paper today, she's been very supportive, and we are going to try and work it out. Time is of the essence." When Leno asked Grant why he agreed to appear on the *Tonight Show* amid the publicity frenzy over his *Sunset Strip* scandal, Grant said "I've never been one to blow my own trumpet, as they say...." The audience exploded in laughter before Grant continued, "...This is a funny film." Fans cheered the actor outside the NBC studio, with one woman waving a sign that read "I would have paid you, Hugh."

Diana, sons arrive in U.S. on private visit

DENVER (R) — Britain's Princess Diana and her two sons arrived in Denver, Colorado on a private visit, officials said. Princess Diana and sons Prince William and Prince Harry, who are reported to be on vacation, arrived in San Francisco on a flight from London. But the three spent only an hour at San Francisco Airport before taking another flight to Denver. Airport sources in Denver said the three arrived there on Monday evening. It was not known whether they would be staying in Denver or going to the Rocky Mountains, where there are several luxury resorts such as Aspen where Princess Diana has spent time in the past. A group of officials escorted Princess Diana, the estranged wife of Britain's royal heir Prince Charles, into the airport terminal at San Francisco, where she was given an enthusiastic welcome by well-wishers. After passing quickly through customs, Princess Diana, wearing a black dress and jacket, was whisked away in a green State Department van. A spokeswoman for the British consulate in San Francisco said Princess Diana and her sons were on a private visit. She said they were in transit in San Francisco but said she had no details about their schedule.

Filipino mother wins \$1.7m in lottery

MANILA (R) — A mother of three claimed a record prize of 42.9 million pesos (\$1.7 million) as lone winner in the Philippines' newest lottery. Gaming officials refused to identify the woman, saying only that she is a government accountant and married to a businessman. "She is a Protestant Christian and said she would spend part of her prize to build a church for her religion," said Manuel Morato, chairman of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, which runs the lotto. The game, which involves picking a winning combination of six numbers from one to 42, was introduced five months ago.

Simpson cried over ex-wife's murder — daughter

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson's daughter told the jury Monday in the star athlete's double murder trial how her father was distraught and crying after being told that his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, had been killed.

Arnette Simpson, Simpson's 26-year-old daughter from his first marriage, was the first witness to take the stand as defense lawyers began their phase of the trial, in which Simpson has pleaded not guilty to the stabbing deaths of Nicole and her friend Ronald Goldman.

She said that on the morning after the June 12, 1994, murders, detectives came to Simpson's mansion, where she was living, and told her about the murders.

She then called Simpson's secretary, Kathy Randa, who said Simpson was in Chicago. She said police informed her father by telephone of his ex-wife's death and she then spoke to him.

"He asked me what was going on. I said, 'Dad, Nicole is dead. She's not here with us anymore,'" Arnette Simpson said.

She said Simpson called back a short time later. "He was very upset. He was crying. I've never heard him sound like that before," she said.

Simpson's mother, Eunice Simpson, told how she flew to Los Angeles from her home in San Francisco to be with her son on learning of Nicole Simpson's death.

She said she sat with Simpson on his couch, holding hands. "We were gripping each other very tightly. He held my hands all during the trial. He was very upset, shocked. We sat holding hands from the time I arrived there until he decided to go to bed," Eunice Simpson said.

Defense attorneys Johnnie Cochran and Robert Shapiro, through their questions to the witnesses, sought to show the jury that Simpson's reaction to the news of Nicole Simpson's death was not the reaction of a murderer, but of someone grieving for a loved one.

Prosecutors have painted a picture of Simpson as a jealous, possessive wife beater who killed Nicole and her friend Goldman as the ultimate form of control over her. Goldman was at the wrong place at the wrong time, they said.

Arnette Simpson said she saw her father for the first time after his return from Chicago at about 5:30 p.m. -DT (0040 GMT) on June 13. "He was numb, he was quiet, just sitting on the couch, holding my grandmother's (Simpson's mother Eunice) hand," she said.

Simpson's defense team also tried to cast doubt on the testimony of prosecution witness Ron Shipp, a friend of Simpson's who said Simpson had told him he had dreamed about killing Nicole Simpson.

Prosecutors: No probe of Juppe on housing

PARIS (R) — Law enforcement officials said Tuesday they decided against investigating Prime Minister Alain Juppe for possible wrongdoing in having the rent lowered on a rent-controlled, city-owned flat which he obtained for his son.

The decision provided some good news for Mr. Juppe, who became prime minister in May and has been embarrassed by disclosures of his role, dating back several years, in a simmering scandal in which prominent politicians, media stars and even artists and actors benefitted from taxpayer-subsidized flats.

Mr. Juppe has denied any wrongdoing in the scandal, calling the disclosures a campaign by political foes to undermine his new government.

"Leave us alone with these trashy stories," he snapped at a reporter Monday when asked if the scandal had affected his ability to do his job.

"We will govern and those who rummage around in dustbins will rummage around in dustbins," he said.

The disclosures date back to a time when Mr. Juppe worked for the Paris City Hall as a top aide to then-Mayor Jacques Chirac, who became president of France in mid-May.

Mr. Juppe has acknowledged that he obtained at that time—and still occupies—a large city-owned flat in an exclusive district at below-market rent and benefitted from about one million francs (\$200,000) of taxpayer-paid repairs.

He also secured low-cost flats for his son, daughter, ex-wife and half-brother, according to media reports that he has not denied.

Legal experts agreed Mr. Juppe had violated no law by taking advantage of the availability of the city-owned flats.

However, they said he

might have crossed the line when, as a city official, he lowered the rent on his son's flat to 6,000 francs (\$1,225) a month from 7,000 francs (\$1,430).

Mr. Juppe said in a recent television interview that he was justified in doing so because the flat was in poor condition and had no elevator.

Judicial officials said state prosecutor Bruno Cotte had concluded the premier would not be pursued in the matter because it had not been demonstrated that he had personally benefitted from his actions.

Under French law, Mr. Juppe's action would have been improper only if he had a "personal interest" in it. Mr. Cotte said in a letter to an ad hoc taxpayer organization that had requested a formal investigation.

Attorney Arnaud Montebourg said the group disagreed with Mr. Cotte and would attempt to pursue the case in the courts on its own.

Meanwhile, the daily, *Libération*, reported Tuesday that France's Republican Party, a member of the governing coalition, is co-owner of a Panama-registered company that received funds from a financier suspected of money-laundering.

The paper, without quoting any sources, said Geneva Judge Philippe Thelin has discovered that the party became co-owner in October 1994 of Spalding Investment, a Panama company.

Spalding had received 15 million francs (\$3.7 million) from Alain Celler, a close friend of Gerard Longuet, who was then president of the Republican Party. Mr. Celler is being investigated for money-laundering.

Spalding is co-owned by Marc De Schiavone, a portfolio manager and a close friend of Finance Minister Alain Madelin. *Libération* said Madelin is a member of the Republican Party.

Hong Kong governor faces first no-confidence vote

HONG KONG (R) — The governor of Hong Kong faces an embarrassing and unprecedented vote of no confidence Wednesday, another sign of the unease permeating the British colony less than two years before the 1997 handover.

Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong, has dismissed the challenge from one-time allies as "empty-gesture politics" and said he would not lose any sleep over it.

But legislative councillors said Tuesday government officials had lobbied hard to persuade them to oppose it. The motion was drafted by the Democratic Party, which opposes last month's Sino-British agreement, reached behind closed doors, for a Court of Final Appeal for Hong Kong.

The Democratic Party's Cheung Man-Kwong, who will propose the vote, said the court's powers were too diluted to guarantee judicial

freedom for Hong Kong after 1997.

"That as the British administration in Hong Kong has seriously damaged the future rule of law in Hong Kong, this council expresses no confidence in Mr. Christopher Patten, the governor of Hong Kong," the motion reads.

The no-confidence motion, if ratified, would be a slap in the face for Mr. Patten and the British establishment but has no constitutional implications. Mr. Patten rules with plenipotentiary powers. He can be dismissed only by the British government.

That is a source of much of the frustration for council members, who may represent the people but have no powers.

But Hong Kong's paternalistic administration has long taken pride in ruling by what it calls "consensus politics" and a no-confidence motion undermines that comfortable policy.

Canadians want death penalty

OTTAWA (R) — Canadians, looking south to the United States and reeling from a lurid murder trial, are again calling for the government to bring back the death penalty, according to a poll released Monday.

The poll of 1,500 people conducted by the Angus Reid Group in late June showed 69 per cent favoured the return of capital punishment, which was abolished almost 20 years ago, with 29 per cent opposed.

Many Canadians have been rocked by the details of a lurid murder trial taking place in Toronto, which has hardened opinions about capital punishment, criminologists said.

The increase in the number of U.S. states — there are now 37 — with capital punishment legislation on their books has also swayed opinions north of the border, they said.

Few Canadians have been unmoved by the evidence coming out of a court in Toronto, where videotapes show former accountant, Paul Bernardo, and his ex-wife, Karla Homolka, savagely assaulting two girls. Leslie Mahaffy, 14, was killed in June 1991 and dismembered with a power saw.

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Italy issues arrest warrant for Craxi

MILAN (R) — A Italian court Tuesday issued an arrest warrant on corruption charges for former Socialist Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who has been living in exile in Tunisia, judicial sources said.

Mr. Craxi, who was prime minister from 1984-87 at the head of two consecutive governments, has denied the

charges against him.

The arrest warrant for Mr. Craxi, who is involved in 20 separate graft investigations, was connected with a probe of irregularities surrounding the building of Milan's underground.

The ex-premier, one of the most illustrious casualties of Italy's graft probes, was sentenced to eight and a half

years in prison in his absence last year in another corruption case.

A year ago, a Rome judge refused a similar request from magistrates to issue an arrest warrant for the disgraced politician on other charges but ruled that he should be stripped of his passport if he ever returned to Italy.

U.S. recognition of Taiwan is a threat to world peace, China says

BEIJING (AFP) — Any attempt by the United States to officially recognize Taiwan would have "serious consequences" not just for Sino-U.S. ties but also for world peace, China's Foreign Ministry warned Tuesday.

The warning came after House Speaker Newt Gingrich, angered by China's recent arrest of U.S. citizen and human rights activist Harry Wu, called Monday for Washington to formally recognize Taiwan as a free country.

"We would like to caution U.S. politicians to take a long, strategic perspective in their handling of the Taiwan question," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told reporters here.

During visits to China in recent years, Mr. Wu secretly gathered information on alleged Chinese human rights abuses, including the sale of human organs taken without consent from death-row prisoners and the use of prison labour to manufacture goods for export.

The information was used in television documentaries overseas as well as in testimonies by Mr. Wu to such forums as the U.S. Congress, the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the European Parliament.

Diplomats in China said Mr. Wu had become a pawn in the Sino-U.S. dispute, predicting that he could be given a heavy sentence to heighten his potential value as a bargaining chip.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organization, Monday called on the U.S. administration to "respond energetically" to win Mr. Wu's release.

Washington Watch director Mike Jendryczek in a statement called for the suspension of high-level visits to China, including that by Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and that under consideration by first lady Hillary Clinton, who might visit Beijing in September for the U.N. World Conference on Women.

He also called for suspension of World Bank funding and pressure by U.S. businesses to win Mr. Wu's release.

Senior State Department officials suggested Monday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might meet his Chinese counterpart on the sidelines of an Association of South East Asian

downturn last month when Washington allowed Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui to make a "private" visit to the United States.

The United States Monday rejected Mr. Gingrich's call for recognising Taiwan — a move that could shatter U.S.-China relations completely.

The nearly two-decades old U.S. policy of recognising one China, governed by the Communists in Beijing, has been successful and "will not change," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

The State Department has been careful not to threaten China with retaliation over the Wu case, but Congress has not been so restrained.

U.S. urges immediate release of Chinese-American

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

The State Department Monday called for the immediate release of a U.S. human rights activist arrested by Chinese police last month on espionage-related charges and a senior lawmaker warned of grave consequences if he were not freed.

Harry Wu, a Chinese-born U.S. national, "should be released expeditiously; immediately," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said here.

His release would be "in the best interests of the United States and China," Mr. Burns said, adding that it was up to China to demonstrate its commitment to good ties with the United States.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms Monday issued a statement warning: "Chinese leaders should know, in no uncertain terms, that if they refuse to release Harry Wu, or harm him in any way, the consequences for China will be very grave."

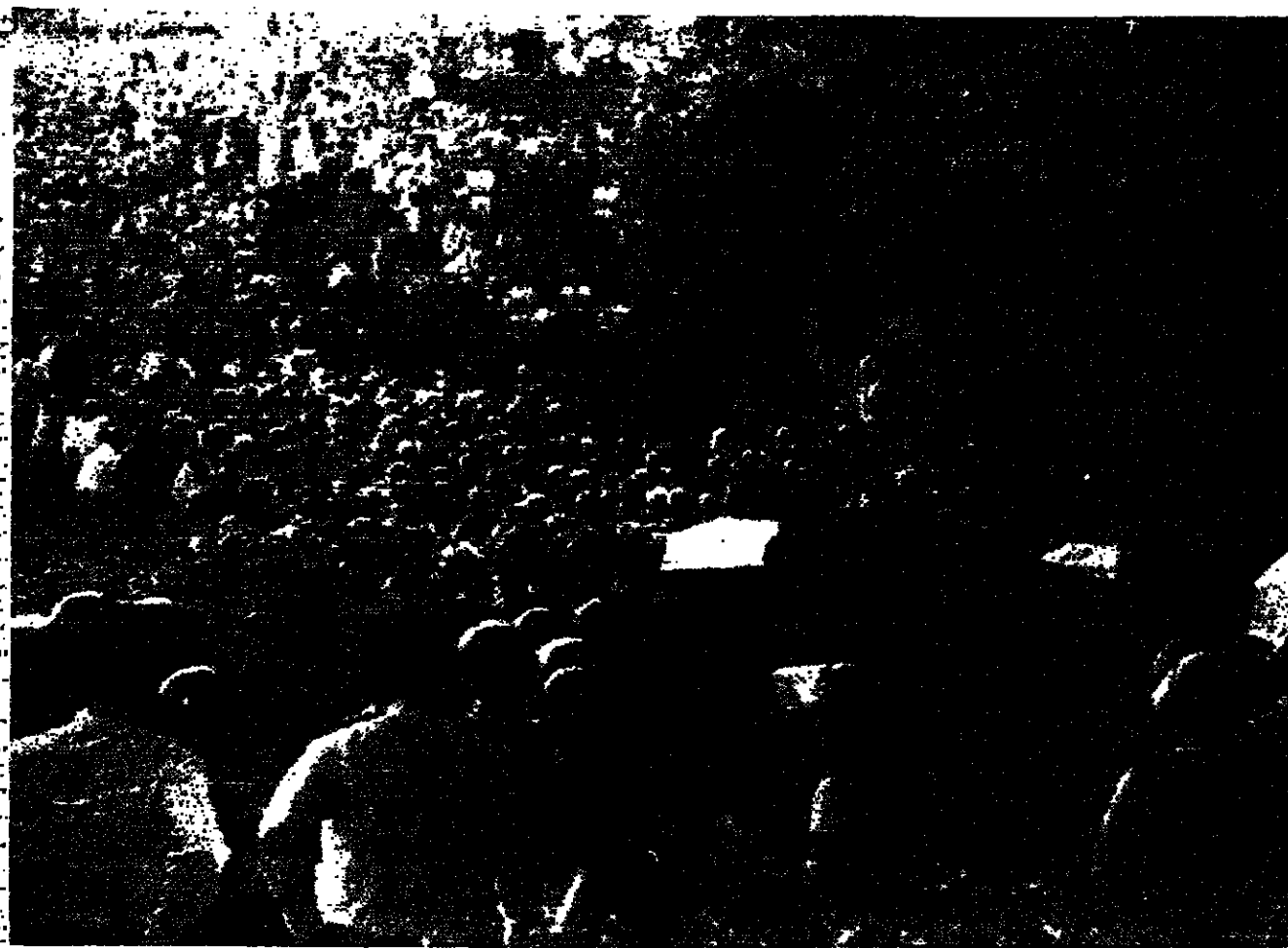
A senior U.S. diplomat met Mr. Wu in the central town of Wuhan Monday after the 58-year-old was detained by the Chinese at the Kazakhstan border on June 19, Mr. Burns said.

U.S. consul-general to Beijing Arturo Macias was allowed to see Mr. Wu in prison for 30 minutes, through a glass partition, speaking to him over a telephone under the close supervision of four to five Chinese officials who refused to allow discussion of the specifics of the case.

"We have not heard Mr. Wu's side of the story," Mr. Burns said.

"We said he was fine, that he was being fed, was not

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Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers in riot gear block the road to members of the Orange Order in Portadown in an attempt to stop confrontation with Nationalists. Hundreds of angry Protestants refused late Sunday to budge from a road near here after police stopped them holding their traditional Orange Order march through a Roman Catholic district (AFP photo)

N.Ireland Protestants march through Portadown

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland (AFP) — Hundreds of Protestants marched — silent, grim-faced, but peacefully — through a Catholic enclave of this south Ulster town Tuesday in a traditional Orange parade delayed by two days of violent clashes.

The parade, agreed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) after lengthy talks with Catholics and Protestants, broke a 48-hour confrontation that had drawn thousands of angry Protestants to this town of 4,000 from across Northern Ireland.

Shortly before noon, the police suddenly withdrew from Garvaghy Road around the Drumcree parish church where they and the Protestant marchers, or Orangemen, as they are known, had been nose-to-nose since Sunday.

Minutes later, the parade began and swiftly covered the route towards some 200 Catholic protesters who, in accordance with the agreement, withdrew to the sidelines behind a light cordon of police.

There was an icy silence as Protestant marchers walked the 100-metre gauntlet past the silent, glaring Catholic protesters, some of whom held up banners saying, "No Sectarian Marches."

The Orangemen stared straight ahead, carrying a single banner with Union Jack and Orange flag fluttering in the breeze.

Within minutes they had passed.

Not an insult was exchanged, not a stone thrown, and when they were past the Catholics, the Protestants broke the tension with a hearty round of applause they said was for the police, and for themselves.

The RUC's green light followed a night in which several policemen were injured in clashes with throngs of Protestants, numbering upwards of 10,000, who had rallied here to protest the altered parade route.

Officers, pelted with stones, bottles and other projectiles, fired rubber bullets at the advancing unionist crowd, barely managing to keep them out of the Garvaghy Road area.

In an apparent concession to the Catholics, Tuesday's march had virtually none of the loud music, gaudy flags, banners, ribbons and fanfare that are the traditional accompaniments — some say provocations — of the summer Orange parades that have been an age-old fixture in Ulster.

Brendon McKenna, chairman of the Garvaghy Road residents' group, said the agreement allowing the march to go ahead had been a triumph for common sense.

"There was no triumphalism on our part," he said. "We are not classing this as a victory over the Orange Order. Common sense has prevailed."

One Protestant woman, asked if she felt any sympathy for the Catholic protesters, replied, "Why should I? I used to live on Garvaghy Road before they took it over and we had to get out."

Seamus Mallon, MP with the moderate Catholic Social Democrat and Labour Party, said the Orange parades "are not here to express peoples' beliefs, but to offend people who do not share those beliefs. It's a macho thing."

The Protestants Sunday had attempted to walk the route they have walked every summer for 188 years, from church back to their homes.

This time, following a week of sectarian conflict stirred by the controversial release of a British soldier convicted of murdering a Catholic teenager, the police said the route would have to be diverted to avoid clashes.

The Orangemen, backed by top unionist politicians including the Reverend Ian Paisley, fiery leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, refused to be moved, saying the parade route was their right and tradition.

Teenaged girl rescued after 12 days in Seoul store rubble

SEOUL (AFP) — Rescuers Tuesday plucked a teenaged girl from the rubble of the collapsed Sampoong Department Store, miraculously alive 12 days after the disaster that killed and injured more than 1,300 people.

Doctors said the 18-year-old sales assistant, Yoo Ji-Hwan, had survived on drops of rainwater seeping through the tangled cement blocks trapping her.

They diagnosed her as in remarkably good health, despite an acute kidney problem caused by dehydration and malnutrition.



Yoo Ji-Hwan, the 18-year-old girl dug out after surviving under the rubble of the collapsed Sampoong Department Store, her eyes bandaged against the light talking to a reporter from her St Mary's Hospital bed an hour after her rescue. Yoo was the 35th person freed alive from the debris of the June 29 disaster (AFP photo)

Ms. Yoo was talking animatedly minutes after her rescue, and won the hearts of thousands glued to the rescue on television by peeking out from the towel shielding her eyes from the sunlight to take a look at the world.

But hopes for three other survivors, who rescuers understood were entombed in the narrow, dank crawlspace with Ms. Yoo, were dashed when the rescuers said minutes later they had found no trace of them.

"We cannot confirm they are there," Yonhap Television News (YTN) quoted a rescue team chief on the collapse site as saying.

But he added that the relentless search, buoyed by the dramatic rescues of Ms. Yoo, a 21-year-old youth, Choi Myung-Suk, two days ago, would not stop, despite the dangers posed to rescuers by monsoon rain and lightning.

Ms. Yoo communicated with her rescuers by wiggling "yes-no" signals, with one manicured foot, the only part of her that was visible, as they gingerly dug toward her for an hour and a half, fearful

of toppling a huge tilted cement slab above her.

"What day is it," rescuers said she asked them as they pulled her out feet first. Later she told doctors at suburban St. Mary's Hospital where she was admitted that what she most wanted was "an iced coffee."

Ms. Yoo's discovery was made just before 2:00 p.m. local time (0500 GMT) — 284 hours after the disaster — following a sound detector blip, near to the place where Choi Myung-Suk was pulled out Sunday, the 34th to be extricated alive from the debris.

Mr. Choi had spent 10 days in an air pocket, also living off rainwater and chewing on cardboard.

The confirmed death toll from the disaster meanwhile rose to 211 with more than 200 still missing. More than 900 people were injured

when the five-storey building collapsed on June 29.

YTN television showed the hundreds of relatives of the missing, who are camped in a makeshift hall near the site, cheering, and some weeping, as they watched Ms. Yoo emerging from the hole on television sets.

Ms. Yoo's mother told television interviewers, "her father is very ill, so I lied and told him she was alive. She is alive. Oh, she is alive."

She also said Ms. Yoo, who graduated from high school in February and had worked at the store for eight months, was the family's sole breadwinner.

Meanwhile, the search for culprits in the shoddy construction and illegal modifications to the doomed store continued with investigators banning 10 officials of Woosung Construction Company, which made the build-

ing's steel frame, from leaving the country.

On Monday, the investigators issued arrest warrants for four suburban officials who they say took bribes of tens of thousands of dollars to overlook illegal extensions to the store.

One, Hwang Chol-Min, accused of accepting a free country club membership worth \$15,800 in return for giving the building a clean bill of health, was currently chief of the training centre for Seoul city public officials. Yonhap News Agency said.

The Sampoong owners, including founder and Chairman Lee Jun, are under arrest for manslaughter caused by criminal negligence.

The shopping centre, one of the plushiest in Seoul, was built during a building boom in 1989 on the site of an old trash landfill.

Anti-nuclear anger mars Chirac European Parliament talk

STRASBOURG, France (Agencies) — French President Jacques Chirac got a taste of the European-wide anti-nuclear anger as he addressed the European Parliament Tuesday.

Socialist, Communist and Ecologist parliamentarians chanted "no, no, no" and waved banners bearing a mushroom cloud and the word "non" as Mr. Chirac reported to the Strasbourg Assembly on France's six-month EU presidency, which ended on June 30.

Friedrich Wolf of the German Greens Party denounced Mr. Chirac in a response to his speech as a "Neo-Gaullist Rambo."

He called for cross-border resistance to force France to abandon its South Pacific tests, just as the oil giant Shell was forced to drop plans to dump the obsolete oil platform Brent Spar in the Atlantic last month.

As Mr. Chirac began speaking, some deputies tried to shout him down with rhythmic chants of "no." Parliament President Klaus Haensch interrupted Chirac and shouted at members to be quiet.

Dozens of left-wing parliamentarians held signs bearing

the slogan "stop nuclear tests now" in French and German. A banner raised behind conservative Gaullist president's back proclaimed: "Monsieur le Président: Non" (Mr. President, No).

Speakers denounced the use of force by the French Navy to drive the Greenpeace environmental organisation's flagship, Rainbow Warrior, away from Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia, where the French tests are due to resume in September.

Pauline Green, president of the Socialist group, the largest force in the parliament, urged Mr. Chirac to reconsider what she called "an environmental and human rights crime which one of our own states is about to commit in another part of the world."

"We in Western Europe have no right to inflict environmental terror thousands of miles from our shores," she said.

"We would object if a far-off country decides to test a weapon of untold danger somewhere on our continent."

In a brief rejoinder, Mr. Chirac said the eight tests planned between September and May would be France's last, and would enable it to sign a global test ban treaty next year.

"I noticed a certain emotion on this point, which I understand, although I do not share it," he said.

Claudia Roth, president of the Green group, said she presented Mr. Chirac with a "Strasbourg appeal" urging him to remember his youthful activism on behalf of the "Stockholm appeal" for a world ban on nuclear weapons.

An Irish Greens parliamentarian, Nuala Ahern, said security men threw her to the ground as Mr. Chirac arrived. She told Reuters she would file a police complaint and press charges for assault.

Others opened umbrellas in the gold-starred blue colours of the EU with the slogan "no to nuclear proliferation" and one banner hung from a gallery demanded in French: "Less arrogance in the Pacific, more courage in Bosnia."

Security guards tore down the banner during Mr. Chirac's speech, sparking renewed uproar, boos and whistles. Mr. Haensch had to threaten to suspend the session to restore order.

Right-wing speakers deplored the protests. Former Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, speaking for the Christian Democratic group, said: "This kind of

demonstration lowers the credibility of this parliament."

Mr. Chirac's rough reception was in stark contrast to the standing ovation which his predecessor, Francois Mitterrand, won in the same chamber six months earlier, when he declared in an acclaimed speech: "Nationalism is war."

Mr. Chirac called for a strong European foreign and defence policy. The vision of Europe he set out briefly was markedly more nationalistic and less interventionist than Mr. Mitterrand's.

Mr. Chirac said France favoured a "big Europe" uniting the whole continent, with greater decision-making power for the Council of member governments and a bigger say for national parliaments alongside the European Parliament.

Mr. Chirac called for a more democratic EU, which "means a reinforcement of the national parliaments and does not exclude in the least the necessary increase in the powers of the Strasbourg parliament."

He said "France favours a greater Europe that will finally bring together our continent, as (former French President) General (Charles) De Gaulle had wished."

Burma's Suu Kyi vows to work for democracy

RANGOON (Agencies) — Burmese dissident Aung San Suu Kyi, appearing in public Tuesday for the first time after six years in detention, said she was confident democracy would prevail in her troubled South East Asia country.

Less than 24 hours after being freed from house arrest by Burma's military rulers, Ms. Suu Kyi said she was willing to talk to them about achieving peace and stability in the country.

"I am happy to be able to say that despite all that we have undergone, the forces for democracy in Burma remain strong and dedicated," a beaming Suu Kyi told reporters.

"I do know that democracy will come to Burma because it is something that the people want," said the 50-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, adding she never doubted she would be freed.

As she spoke to a large gathering of reporters in the lakeside home to which she had been confined since July 20, 1989, a delighted crowd gathered on the street outside, even though by Tuesday afternoon a local media blackout of news of her release was still in force.

Ms. Suu Kyi said top officials from the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) told her Monday afternoon that she was unconditionally freed.

"They would like me to help towards achieving peace and stability in the country," Ms. Suu Kyi said.

"We have to choose between dialogue or utter devastation. I would like to believe that human instinct for survival alone, if nothing else, would eventually lead us to prefer dialogue."

Ms. Suu Kyi also said she had no bad feelings towards those who imprisoned her, and said some of them were even "charming," but pleaded to military authorities for moderation.

"Extreme viewpoints are not confined to any particular group and it is the responsibility of the leaders to control such elements as they threaten the spirit of reconciliation."



Aung San Suu Kyi

pro-democracy campaigners still in prison.

Ms. Suu Kyi was detained by the SLORC for "endangering the state" after outspoken attacks on the military which killed and imprisoned thousands while suppressing a pro-democracy uprising in 1988.

The daughter of Burma's independence hero, she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

She said she thought her release should be seen as a positive sign, but cautioned against expecting too much too soon. "I would like them to see it as a good sign, a hopeful sign," she said. "But I would like them to regard it with caution, cautious optimism, I think."

Referring to the overgrown vegetation inside the compound of her house on the shore of the Inya Lake, Ms. Suu Kyi said she was first going to try and "understand what's been going on outside this garden."

Her next priority would be to sit down with fellow pro-democracy leaders and decide on their next steps.

Immediately after her release, and again Tuesday morning, Ms. Suu Kyi met senior officials of the National League for Democracy (NLD) she helped found in 1988.

The NLD swept elections in 1990, taking 392 of the 485 contested seats — even though Ms. Suu Kyi was already detained at the time. The SLORC never recognised the election result.

Ms. Suu Kyi said the re-

sults showed the true feelings of the Burmese. "The majority of the people in Burma believe in the market economy and democracy was amply viewed by the results of the 1990 elections," she said.

Ms. Suu Kyi, had a short meeting with Rangoon-based diplomats Tuesday following the news conference marking her release from house arrest.

Diplomats reached by telephone in Rangoon said that several who had attended the news conference had talks with her afterward in which she said she was looking forward to further contacts.

The diplomats declined to give further details or to say who was present at the meeting.

Smiling broadly, Ms. Suu Kyi also spoke to cheering supporters outside her compound after the news conference, encouraging them to keep the faith.

The crowd, which had waited patiently, many of them seated in the roadway on University Avenue outside the gate, chanted wishes of health happiness to the opposition leader, eyewitnesses said.

Saying it was best to operate within the law, Ms. Suu Kyi encouraged the crowd to vacate the roadway — which they did immediately and in orderly fashion, the eyewitnesses said.

World welcomes release

U.S. President Bill Clinton and other world leaders Tuesday hailed Ms. Suu Kyi's first step back into the political spotlight after six years under house arrest.

But most said they sought further signs of the Burmese military junta's willingness to reach out to its democratic opposition. The fate of other political prisoners received particular attention.

Mr. Clinton, United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali, and leaders who had pressed for the release of the 50-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner and Burma's best-known dissident, all praised the gesture of the Burmese authorities. Japan announced it would

end an eight-year freeze on yen loans to impoverished Burma, with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono saying it was "a major step forward in the democratisation of the country."

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said it was "marvellous news."

The six-nation Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), made up of most of Burma's near neighbours, said the move justified their policy of "constructive engagement" with the ruling SLORC in Rangoon.

The Thai Foreign Ministry said credit should go to Burma's neighbours in ASEAN — which also groups Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei and Singapore — for not isolating the Burmese regime.

"I think the effort of ASEAN collectively through constructive engagement has drawn positive results, and we have learned the news with great relief," Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan told AFP.

Britain, France and Germany all welcomed Ms. Suu Kyi's surprise liberty.

Only China, among the key nations involved, declined to comment on the release.

China was the first country to recognise Burma's military junta after it came to power in a coup d'etat in 1988. It is currently the main supplier of military aid to its southern neighbour.

And while China generally does not comment on other countries' domestic affairs — especially when the issue is embarrassing for the government, it knows attention could now fall on its own rights record.

"This is an internal affair of Burma," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said of the release of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

But even the positive responses were nearly all tinged with caution about the future conduct of the military-officers in Rangoon.

Norwegian kidnapped by militants in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — A Norwegian has been kidnapped by Muslim separatist militants in Kashmir, the sixth Western tourist seized in the troubled northern Indian state in the past week, police here said Tuesday.

The Norwegian tourist, identified as Hans Christian Otto, was abducted Saturday in the same area where two Americans, two Britons and a German have been kidnapped since July 4, police said.

State police said the Norwegian man had been abducted while trekking in the Pahalgam area where the other Westerners were seized. He left Pahalgam on July 5 and was kidnapped by a group of militants Saturday.

The Norwegian embassy here said it had not received any report from the Indian authorities so far about the disappearance of a Norwegian national.

The Norwegian is the sixth Westerner seized by Muslim militants in the past week in three separate incidents in the mountains of Pahalgam, a popular resort some 100 kilometres east of this Kashmir summer capital.

One of the kidnapped Americans, John Childs of

Connecticut, managed to escape from his abductors over the weekend and reach Srinagar but another American, two Britons and a German remain in the hands of the militants.

The Americans — Childs and Donald Fred Hutchings — and Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 34, were seized on July 4 while the German, Dirk Hasert, 25, was abducted Saturday in a separate incident.

The Indian authorities believe that Mr. Hasert is being held by the same Muslim militant group which abducted the Americans and Britons but no organised has claimed responsibility for his kidnapping.

A previously unknown group, Al Faran, has claimed responsibility for the abduction of the Americans and Britons and demanded the release from Indian prisons of 21 Muslim militants by July 15.

Indian authorities believe Al Faran may actually be the headline group Harkat Ul Ansar, which kidnapped two Britons in the same area a year ago and released them unharmed after 17 days.

Indian troops have been searching the woods around Pahalgam for the Western

tourists and have barred foreigners and Hindu pilgrims from leaving the town, saying they could become fresh targets of militants prowling the area.

Army reinforcements arrived in Pahalgam Tuesday to help search for the abducted tourists, a police officer said in this summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state where a Muslim separatist drive has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

The authorities told foreign tourists not to trek beyond Pahalgam and banned the annual pilgrimage by Hindus to a cave shrine in the snow-clad mountains of Amarnath, 64 kilometres away.

"We are sure militants are present on the trekking route and we don't want any more kidnappings," a police officer said.

Thousands of Hindus visit Amarnath every year and dozens who have already reached Pahalgam are now stranded. "The Hindu pilgrims shall be allowed to proceed when we are able to ensure full security," the officer said.

Foreigners who have already set out from Pahalgam have been ordered to

return. "Some have already come back while others are on their way," the officer said.

The Harkat, which has many Afghans in its ranks, has threatened to attack Hindu pilgrims trekking to Amarnath in retaliation for what it described as "the desecration and destruction of Islamic shrines in India."

On Tuesday, Umar Farooq, the Muslim religious leader of Kashmir, demanded the release of the Western tourists and condemned the kidnapping.

Mr. Farooq, who also heads the Freedom Conference, an umbrella group of Muslim organisations supporting Kashmir's secession from India, said he was trying to contact the kidnappers and secure the release of their captives.

Other Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups have condemned the abductions and accused "Indian agents" of staging the kidnappings to discredit their movement.

In Oslo, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said it was unable to comment about the kidnapping.

"Our embassy in New Delhi is trying to get in touch with the information," a ministry spokesman said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD

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Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671716, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Elections must be fair

IT IS regrettable that the first nationwide municipal elections got marred by accusations and counter-accusations between the opposition and government. Jordanians throughout the country who were celebrating or mourning their luck in the results last night would all agree on one thing: It does not matter if one wins or loses as long as the election process was fair, free and democratic. The fact there was a problem in Zarqa, and Ruseifa, means that it will take us some time yet to have trouble-free elections just like democratic countries largely do. We did have problems in some districts too in the 1993 parliamentary elections, but we thought every effort would be taken this time to preempt repetition anywhere in Jordan.

What went wrong? The Islamic Action Front started releasing statements by mid-day yesterday accusing the government of using various tactics to weaken the IAF candidates and help their opponents win. In the course of the day their representatives met with the prime minister and by the evening they said they had decided to boycott the poll in Zarqa even though the Ruseifa elections were, according to them, also tampered with. The government countered by issuing a statement in the evening accusing the Islamists of fabricating all their charges and calling on them to resort to the judiciary, the final arbiter in contests of this kind.

While it is difficult for anyone else to determine the authenticity of the allegations made by the Islamists it is obvious that they feel targeted. The answer to the question of whether they are cannot be ours. Yet indications are that the government would not sit tight while it is also being the subject of a concerted campaign led by the mainly Islamist opposition.

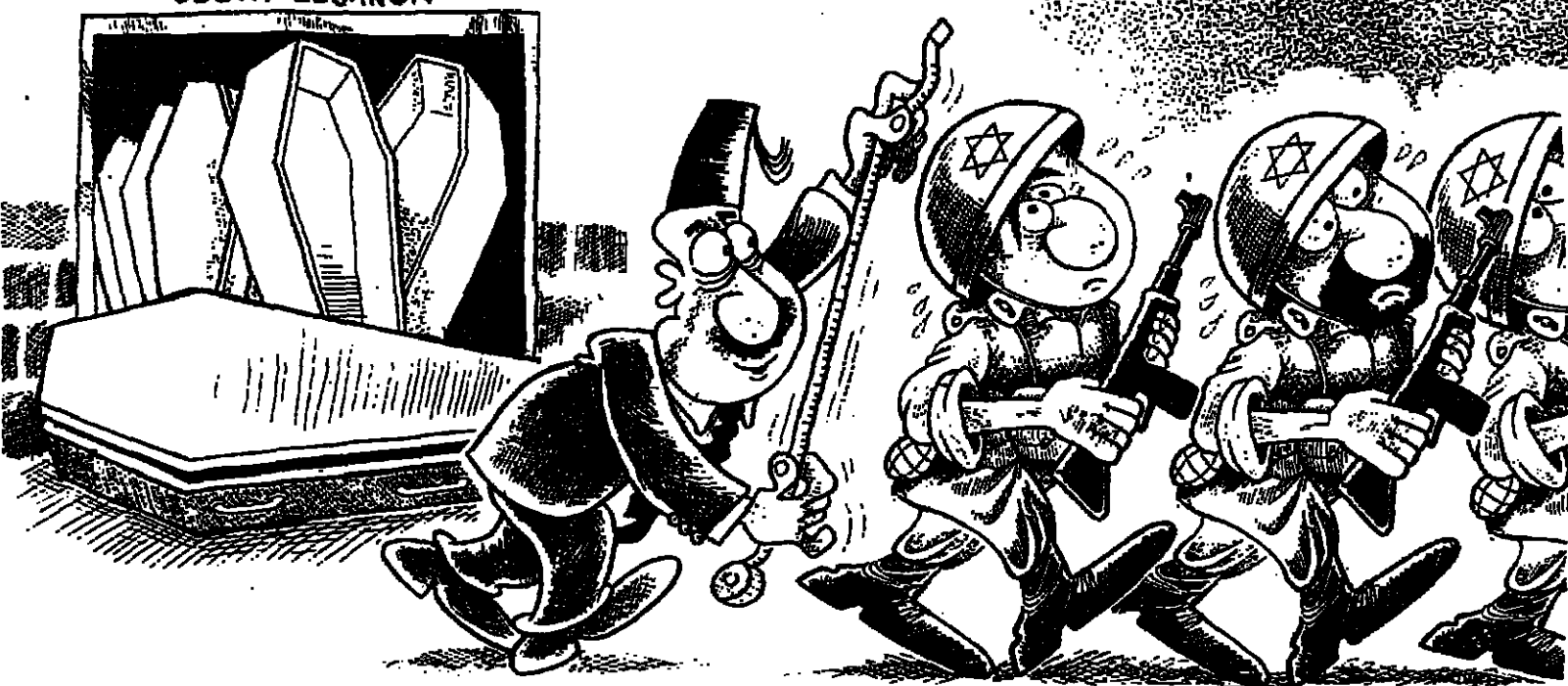
In any case, we could only urge the Islamists to heed the government's call and resort to the judiciary, the third estate that has proven its integrity and credentials in recent times. Meanwhile the government and parliament need to work on new legislation that ensures the involvement of the judicial branch in supervising, on the spot, elections to come.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday urged the ministers of trade in Egypt and Jordan, who are currently holding talks in Amman, to liberate trade exchanges between the two countries from all restrictions. Tarek Masarweh said since Jordan and Egypt constitute part of the Arab Nation, according to their constitutions, no trade restrictions should exist between them and no limit on transactions between the private sectors must be placed on either side. Jordan should seek to promote inter-Arab trade with Egypt, Syria and other Arab states to arrive at economic integration in the Arab World, which unfortunately continues to conduct more than 90 per cent of its trade with non-Arab countries, said the writer. He said that the Jordanian trade minister ought to try to attain a balance with Egypt in terms of trade exchanges and to remind his Egyptian counterpart of the fact that thousands of Egyptian workers in Jordan transfer considerable amounts of hard currency to their home country from Jordan. He said also that Egypt in the past did not treat Jordan's interests on equal basis like what happened in the transfer of Royal Jordanian funds to Jordan at a time when Jordan was keen on honouring its commitments to the end.

A WRITER in Al Dustour drew the attention of the Amman mayor and the municipal council to the fact that many of the capital's districts complain from inadequate procedures for collecting and removing garbage from residential areas. Mohammad Daoud said the municipality, which is trying to offer the best available services to the residents of Amman, has regrettably allowed garbage trucks to park overnight or part of the day inside the residential quarters around the capital. Not only have the local residents been complaining of the stench and the bad smell but they have been reporting that some of the waste materials and garbage were falling off the trucks into their areas, polluting the environment and causing common flies and insects to infest the residential areas, said the writer. Demanding that the garbage trucks be removed immediately from populated areas, the writer said that it is the duty of the municipality to contribute towards safeguarding public health and ensure the most healthy atmosphere for the capital's residents.

UNDERTAKER SOUTH LEBANON



M. KAHIL

Negotiating the last taboo: Palestinian refugees

By Prof. Donna E. Arzi

IT IS time to start talking about the refugees: the return, resettlement and/or compensation of the one million Palestinians currently living outside of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Although the Sept. 13, 1993 Declaration of Principles (DoP) designates the refugee issue as a "permanent status topic," not to be negotiated until (at most) three years after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, it would be absurd to suggest that official negotiators will be able to broach the subject out of a virtual abyss. Yet that would be the effect of waiting until late 1996 or 1997 before raising the topic at public conferences, open forums, in telecommunications media or in print.

Anyone who makes an honest assessment of the Arab-Israeli conflict must acknowledge that it is not really about territory but about people. The territorial issues — secure borders, demilitarized zones, mutual withdrawal from, even the final status of Jerusalem, as seemingly as explosive a problem as any — are essentially symbolic and ultimately amenable to technical solutions. By contrast, the human dimension of the conflict — the fate of the refugees, their material and psychological needs, their dislocation and claims of entitlement, the resolution of their residential and legal status — is the real crux of the issues to be permanently resolved. Yet this is the last taboo, the one that neither side raises either in public discussion or, by all accounts, in private meetings.

During the summer of 1994 I spent three weeks in Israel and the West Bank looking for people of influence who were willing to talk about Palestinian refugees. I spoke to Jewish and Palestinian academics, current and former government (including Palestinian National Authority (PNA)) officials and political activists, as well as personal friends, usually centre-to-left Israelis. Almost unanimously, they told me that they were not themselves working on the topic but were certain that someone else was. Occasionally, Israelis would give me another name to check, but almost invariably, it would turn out to be a false lead. Palestinians would usually refer me to the same person, Salim Tamari, a Bir Zeit University sociologist who heads the Palestinian delegation to the refugee multilateral talks. As he said when I finally caught up with him, "one person does not make a dialogue."

Even more frustrating were the conversations with native Israeli friends. Two unrelated couples offered similar comments about my investigation. One pair are Holocaust survivors active in the

Labour Party; the other, middle-aged kibbutzniks from the secular Kibbutz Artzi Movement. Both told me that I shouldn't be limiting my sources to Palestinians and Israeli leaders "on the left." But when I asked them who on the right would be willing to discuss the refugee issue rationally, they couldn't name anyone. One of the kibbutzniks almost got hysterical at my use of the word "refugee." When I showed her official Israeli Foreign Ministry documents that used the term in reference to Palestinians, she declared that they were "selling out all of the sons who died in all the wars."

After a while I realised that these patterns were more than coincidental, an indisputable leitmotif with two separate, but related explanations: for Israelis, there may be a psychological barrier, a deep refusal to face the fact that there are real-life Palestinians out there who want to return to their family homes; and for Palestinians, it may reflect a "postponement mentality," a sense that though it is central topic, it is not as urgent as elections, economic investment and negotiating the Israeli withdrawal from the rest of the West Bank.

None of this is meant to imply that the refugee issue has never been introduced officially or unofficially by the peace negotiators. The multilateral process has made modest headway in the area and deserves some wider recognition. But ultimately, as the following description reveals, it has failed to put the topic of Palestinian refugees on the only agenda where it will ever lead to a consensus about permanent status and final conditions: in the minds and in the discourse of the public.

The refugee Multilateral Working Group, a component of the Madrid process, was intended to undertake confidence building measures focusing on improving the short-term living conditions of Palestinian refugees without waiting for political breakthroughs of a more long-term nature through the bilateral negotiation process. This was, in and of itself, a significant development, as it meant that Arab states and Palestinians had accepted the principle — which they had previously opposed for 45 years — that the refugee could improve their quality of life without prejudicing their future rights and status as either refugees or returnees. To this end, the members of the multilateral agreed to undertake humanitarian projects in the areas of human resource development, vocational training and job creation, public health, child welfare and social and economic infrastructural development. In addition, they agreed to sponsor research projects, including Canada's development of a database of existing in-

formation and material on the refugees, and a Norwegian survey of the socio-economic conditions of refugees living in Gaza and the West Bank.

The concrete results in each of these areas have been less than stellar. But by discussing and funding projects that are outside the West Bank and Gaza, as well as inside, the refugee multilateral is intended to reassure diaspora Palestinians that their needs have not been cast aside by the bilateral autonomy/negotiation process.

In terms of multilateral negotiations over movement of persons, the results are even more modest. Israel agreed in 1993 to raise its annual ceiling on the number of family reunification cases it accepts from 1,000 to 2,000 (or a total of 6,000 individuals); this involves the return of permanent residency status in the West Bank or Gaza or Palestinians who left in 1967 or later. Israel also agreed that the returning members of the Palestinian police force and their families would not be counted in the annual quota. Another 5,000 temporary residents of the territories have been allowed to remain permanently with their families and up to 80,000 permanent residents of the (occupied) territories who overstayed their permits to go abroad will be allowed back.

The most far-reaching result on refugees that has come out of the bilateral process arises from the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty of October, 1994. One of the six general principles of the treaty states that the two countries "believe that within their control, involuntary movements of persons in such a way as to adversely prejudice the security of either party should not be permitted."

(The two English language texts that I've examined use the elective word "should," rather than the mandatory "shall.") In addition an article titled "Refugees and Displaced Persons" renewed the 1993 Declaration of Principle's call for a quadripartite committee of Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians to work towards the resolution of the matter of persons displaced from the territories during or after the 1967 war. In a final article, Israel and Jordan agreed to establish a claims commission for the mutual settlement of all financial claims. The provision does not go into any detail, however, as to who can make claims, subject coverage, valuation of property or sources of funding.

The quadripartite committee did meet in Amman in early March of 1995. The meeting produced only disagreement, as expected, over the matter of numbers: Israel contends that the number of Palestinians displaced in 1967 is between 150,000 and 250,000, while the Arab

parties put the total number at about 850,000. As usual, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) comes out in the middle, at 350,000. The discrepancy is mainly attributable to Israel's refusal to count spouses and children of those who left in 1967. It is hard to imagine that this refusal is more than an initial negotiating stance, as Israel has already accepted the principle of family reunification in other contexts. With natural increase over 28 reunification in other contexts. With natural increase over 28 years, the middle-range 350,000 figure would have doubled to 700,000 by today. The rest of the disparity comes from Israel's rejection of a few hundred persons involved in (alleged) terrorism, and those whose fate it seeks to have resolved in final status talks: those from East Jerusalem, those whose home towns have since 1967 become Jewish settlements, and those 1948 refugees who were displaced again in 1967. This latter category is certainly a significant percentage.

The Amman meeting was obviously a disappointment for anyone with idealistic expectations. But given that it was the very first, official face-to-face meeting on this subject, the virtually complete lack of progress is understandable. Because the issue of the 1967 displaced persons does not directly implicate the question of repatriation to Israel proper, I think that an agreement on the mechanism for their future return to the West Bank is eventually achievable.

So, what is left to resolve after the matter of the 1967 displaced? Only the fate of approximately two to four million Palestinians who currently live in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, elsewhere in the Middle East and outside the Middle East. How many will eventually return? To where? The West Bank and Gaza? To within the Israeli Green Line? What will happen to those who remain outside of either Israel or the Palestinian territories? Who will receive compensation? How much and from what source? These are not merely symbolic or technical questions by any means. In order for negotiators to begin to approach them, let alone resolve them, public discourse needs to be directed towards some underlying principles of discussion.

Though each side expresses it differently, at the most fundamental level, the refugee or human dimension of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is about the willingness to accept who one's neighbours are. What "Jewish security" means for Israelis, "Palestinian return" means for Palestinians and other Arabs: the need for acceptance. To achieve a practical yet equitable final settlement, each side knows that

it must compromise its seemingly most uncompromisable need. Hence the difficulty in inaugurating, let alone reaching closure on, the refugee issue. I contend that this most intractable of issues can be resolved if three basic negotiation principles are accepted by all sides:

★ The first principle is that discussion of the refugee question will be forward, not backward-looking, so that age-old battles over fault and causes of dislocation will not be done because concrete agreements must take into account concrete, contemporary demographic figures, which all derive from the hotly disputed base figure which I call the "magic number" — the number of Palestinians who left Israel during the 1948 war. It also requires a great amount of rhetorical restraint in use of politically loaded terminology such as "return," "expulsion," "transfer" and "rights." Even the term "refugee," as I learned from my Israeli friends, can precipitate endless altercation in this context.

★ The second principle is that wherever possible, obligations of the parties to the negotiations must be made reciprocal and regionally balanced. I believe that the only pragmatic and fair resolution of the human dimension of the conflict is through regional participation. This involves a fact which honest brokers must acknowledge: that a large percentage of Palestinian refugees must be absorbed permanently into either the countries of their heretofore temporary residence or neighbouring countries of the Middle East. This result can ultimately be acceptable to the vast majority of Palestinians and their host states if they are given compensation for abandoned property and dual citizenship as, for instance, Palestinian-Jordanians or Palestinian-Syrians (or even — if I may be so bold to suggest, Palestinian-Kuwaitis), which will facilitate their future right to travel to and eventually to settle in an independent Palestinian state, but not their complete and immediate return, which would be destabilising and impractical.

★ Third, the standard to be achieved in the entire settlement must be international normality, the condition in which responsible, peaceful states and their citizens are expected to behave and interact with each other, including respect for human rights and non-persecution of the ethnic minorities that will inevitably remain in Israel, Palestine and all of the neighbouring states. (His

(Continued on page 7)

The writer teaches at the College of Law at Syracuse University, New York. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

It Occurred to Me

By Ali Kassay

Fun and Games at Town Hall

ONE OF the cleverest innovations intended to separate the citizen from his dwindling purse is retroactive regulation. I came across it when I investigated the commercial feasibility of building an extension to a piece of property. I discovered that the building, which complied perfectly with all the rules in existence at the time of construction, was now in violation of a subsequent regulation stating that every building should have a parking space for every apartment or shop that it contains. Since mine does not, I should pay a hefty fine before I even think of the cost of permits, construction, etc.

This is fascinating. Simply put, a citizen can be punished for violating a regulation conceived nearly half a century after the fact. This rule, adroitly applied, opens up an infinity of prospects for raising revenue. As for us, miserable sinners, we should start putting money aside for the day when retroactive fines are slapped on us for having driven cars with internal combustion engines, for having lived in houses with windows that are too small or too large, or for having contributed to environmental degradation by exhaling after each intake of breath. Pursuant to this approach, our bureaucracy can solve the national debt problem simply by imposing a retroactive fine on me for every cigarette that it caused me to smoke in exasperation since my return from undergraduate school.

This, however, is technically unjust because the sum requested is technically not a fine. It is a fee. In return for paying it I would be allocated parking space for my car in a public area near my house. This is good in as far as it goes. It is scarcely an improvement on the current situation, since I already park my car in front of my house, but it would be nice to have that space earmarked for my exclusive use.

Would it, though? How would this preserve of mine be demarcated to dissuade marauding motorists from usurping it? Well, it would not. I was told, so I should have somebody keep an eye on it and tell trespassers not to park there. Now, if the watchman asks a motorist not to park in my slot, and the latter ignores him: what then? The bureau- crat took a deep breath and lifted the palms of his hands heavenwards as if to say: "Look, sort it out with your neighbours and stop pestering me."

The picture became clear. Having paid thousands of dinars to have the municipality assign a parking place for me on the street, I should then engage a watchman to stand there and mind it in my absence. This guardian of my rights should preferably be a graduate from a diplomatic academy or a veteran from a peace-keeping mission, because he would have to recourse only to his powers of tactful persuasion to dislodge a tired motorist from the slot which he has struggled to find.

The story, however, does not end there. I ventured one last question: "What if the place allocated to me is already demarcated, as a no parking zone by the Department of Traffic?" The patience of my interlocutor with the rubber stamp almost gave. "One really should not be so negative! We are here to serve the citizens as best as we can, but we have no control over the Traffic Department." In other words, just pay up and shut up.

What is required here is not control but coordination between departments. Many countries have a system whereby cars belonging to the inhabitants of an area bear a coloured tag indicating their right to be stationed there. Vehicles not bearing that tag would be penalised for remaining in a spot longer than a reasonable delay. Alternatively a system of traffic metres could be introduced. But that would mean work — and life is too short. Easier to just slap another fine and get on with it.

Murder Theft in

MURDOOSHU (AFP) — A woman in Somalia's fertile Shabelle region came to the police Thursday to report the murder of her husband. The woman said her husband was killed by a man who was a virtual slave on a plantation, and she was forced to work on it. The slave-workers are said to be a mix of Somali and other ethnic groups. The woman said she was forced to work on the plantation for a long time. She said she was forced to work on the plantation for a long time. She said she was forced to work on the plantation for a long time.

Negotia

Continued from page 1
The writer teaches at the College of Law at Syracuse University, New York. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Centrists see

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Islamists c

Continued from page 1
The writer teaches at the College of Law at Syracuse University, New York. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Murder, slavery and theft in lawless Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Farmers in Somalia's fertile lower Shabelle region came forward Thursday to tell stories of an area ostensibly at peace but where they say militiamen beat, murder, enslave, tax, steal and extort.

The farmers added that they ended up thanking the gunmen — loyal to south Mogadishu warlord Mohammed Farah Aided — for not killing them.

Among the stories: one 29-year-old man killed because he ate two bananas as he worked as a virtual slave on a plantation, and a woman who gave birth after being forced to work all day.

The slave-workers are fed a meagre diet of beans boiled in unsalted water, the farmers say, but are forbidden to eat the fruit they pick.

Ironically, life was actually easier for them in the days of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre, overthrown in January 1991, since harvesters then could eat as many bananas as they wanted so long as they did not take any home.

The farmers say that two big banana companies, Sombana, a subsidiary of

the U.S.-based Dole corporation, and Sombafruit, which has Italian backing, use militiamen aboard dozens of "technicals" — pickup trucks with heavy weapons mounted — to force men, women and children to work on the plantations for more than 11 hours a day for little or no pay.

Roadside sellers said they would give terrified nods of appreciation as passing militiamen helped themselves to cigarettes, coconuts, and fruit juices.

Sombana head Ahmad Duale Gelle "Haf" denied the charge. "We haven't seen human rights violations in the region so far," he said.

Sombafruit refused to comment.

Local faction leader Ibrahim Mohammed Dirie said at least 10 farmers had been killed after resisting militiamen who tried to take over their farms.

He accused the companies of instigating the farm take-overs, and called for a withdrawal of all militiamen and a boycott of exported bananas.

The farmers say some militiamen are employed directly by the companies,

and that the others are loyal to General Aided, who they say is supported financially by both Sombana and Sombafruit despite his ouster as chairman of the Somali National Alliance on June 11 by his financier-turned-rival, Osman Hassan Ali "Atto."

Aided supporters elected the general as Somalia's "interim president" on June 15, a move unrecognised by his rival.

During the banana harvest, the farmers said, militiamen pay 50 Somali cents for each bunch of bananas.

This means a strong man able to carry 400 bunches in a day can earn the equivalent of three U.S. cents.

But the militiamen sell untreated river water for drinking at 500 shillings per jerry can, the equivalent of nine U.S. cents, and charge 150,000 shillings for enough canal water to irrigate a small farm once.

On top of that, the farmers say, they levy a "re-education tax."

A university graduate who gave his name only as Dr. Musa said he saw a 32-year-old man "tortured, then shot in the head and thrown on a garbage pile, where his body was set ablaze."

Shell battle inspires Greenpeace to fight on

By Kate Kelland
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Greenpeace has always been on the front line in the environmentalists' battle to save the planet, but its recent successes have inspired and refreshed hopes that the small guys really can beat the world's polluters.

Long gone are the days when "earth lovers," with their brown-bread-and-bicycles image, shook their fists at the governments and corporate giants they claimed were polluting the earth.

Admirable, but rather pathetic, they were dismissed as wacky hippies without a hope of gaining real public support.

But adept media manipulation by Greenpeace's multi-million dollar publicity machine, snatching prime-time soundbites and front-page news, helped win public acclaim and raised the lobby's profile around the globe.

Formed in Canada in 1971, when a dozen activists set sail in a tiny boat for the U.S. atomic test zone in Alaska, Greenpeace set out to grab headlines, and the public began to wake up to its mission when it beamed back pictures of its battles

from around the world. Images of activists hugging baby seals to protect them from club-wielding fur hunters in Canada, or bobbing perilously in tiny rubber dinghies to block huge ships carrying nuclear waste, soon became familiar throughout the world's media.

Then, 10 years ago this month, French secret agents blew up Greenpeace's campaign boat Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour.

Greenpeace said the attack, which killed one crew member and led to the resignation of the French defence minister, was "an historic act of violence, a display of state-sponsored terrorism... against an organisation founded on a principle of non-violence."

As the 10th anniversary of the bombing approaches, Greenpeace's replacement vessel is on its way to the French nuclear test site in the South Pacific — proof, it says, that the anti-nuclear campaign cannot be stopped, even with violence.

"You cannot sink a rainbow," Greenpeace says. "Our commitment to campaigning and peaceful direct action to stop environmental destruction remains unchanged."

"If Shell was a big adversary, then the French government with all its military and technical means is obviously a much harder nut to crack," international campaign director Ulrich Jurgens told Reuters.

"But in the end we will prove that what they are doing is wrong and they will have the population against them as much as Shell did," he added, referring to the Greenpeace-led campaign which forced Shell to abandon plans to dump the Brent Spar oil platform at sea.

After a quarter of a century of peaceful protest aimed at protecting the environment, Greenpeace has been transformed into a slick, fast-acting organisation.

It recognised the value of winning the battle for the media and wired itself up for the 1990s, harnessing modern technology to drive home its environmental message.

With its global headquarters in Amsterdam, Greenpeace now has office in 30 countries and an income of \$131 million.

Its coffers, funded exclusively by individual membership fees and private donations, are estimated to grow to \$142 million this

year. The money pays for a full-time staff of 12,000 — there are many thousands of volunteers — a fleet of six vessels, two hot air balloons, a helicopter and hundreds of rubber dinghies.

Greenpeace was the first "green" group to use digital compression television to beam live pictures of its campaigns to the world's media. It has thousands of mobile and satellite telephones, beepers and on-site faxes.

"At the very beginning of Greenpeace's history it became very apparent that if we could bring images of environmental abuse to the public... it would help us in the battle to win their hearts and then their minds," Richard Titchen, chief executive of Greenpeace communications, told Reuters.

"Going live is what everybody looks for these days. We have to keep up with modern technology."

Support for Greenpeace had fallen off in recent years, with membership down from a peak of almost five million in 1990 to just over three million last year as internal bickering bled the group's public standing.

Some campaigners, felt Greenpeace was becoming too much like a profit-making institution. They argued that job cuts and reorganisations cut at the group's core.

But last month's victory over Shell rekindled public support and helped reunite internal factions.

The campaign bore all the group's traditional hallmarks. Activists risked their lives to stop the rig being dumped, the media was fed live video pictures of battles with Shell's water canons. European governments condemned Shell and there was a widespread public boycott of its petrol stations.

The result proved the worth of marrying slick publicity with old-fashioned people power.

"It's not really about the actual contents of the (Brent) spar and what it could have done," Mr. Jurgens said. "But the spar very much symbolises the way in which we as an industrialised society go about dealing with the waste we produce."

"The important point is that this waste was created by Shell, the third biggest company on this planet, and that it was still planning to behave like a little child who throws a lemonade can into the water."

Negotiating the last taboo

(Continued from page 6)

Majesty King Hussein stated it best at the White House ceremony which ended the state of war between Jordan and Israel: "We are on our way now truly towards what is normal in relations between our peoples and ourselves."

As a law professor, I am constantly asked what principles of law are relevant to resolution of the refugee issue. The answer, cynical though it may sound, is "very few." Three aspects of international law, aside from the general principle of respect for human rights, are germane, but not necessarily helpful. They are the right of return within the context of the international law of freedom of movement; the right of refugees to compensation both for their dislocation and for property left behind; and the prohibition on mass expulsion and involuntary transfer.

On the other first subject, return, international law scholars such as Tufts University professor Hurst Hannum have closely con-

strued the relevant language of the central treaty, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which reads: "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country." The word "return" is conspicuously absent from this formulation. Moreover, it is structured as an individual right and not a collective or group right. It has also been pointed out that the most relevant non-treaty law on the subject of Palestinian refugees, the U.N. General Assembly's Resolution 194, adopted in 1948, states that the refugees "should be permitted to return to their homes... and receive compensation" but nowhere uses the word "right." Therefore, I think that resort by Palestinian negotiators to the legalese of "right of return" can only result in the politicised locking of horns.

On the second topic, refugee compensation, it must be acknowledged that aside from a few and very discreet occasions, no large-scale refugee crisis has ever been resolved

through the award of compensation. However, much ground-breaking research in the specific context of Palestinian refugees has been done by SUNY Binghamton political scientist Don Peretz, author of the recent book, *Palestinian Refugees and the Middle East Peace Process*. He has worked on identifying Palestinian property left behind in Israel in 1948, as well as methods of assessing the current value of that property and the possible means of funding and distributing compensation. The parties to the peace process have barely touched on this very volatile compensation question. Thrown in the cauldron is the issue of Israeli counter-claims concerning Jewish property abandoned in Arab countries in the period of 1949-1952 when Jews from Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere migrated to Israel. The lobby group World Organisation of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC) claims that this property is worth five times that of Arab property left in Israel.

The third germane

area involves customary international law norms about mass expulsion and forcible transfer of populations. From time to time, extremists in both Palestinian and Israeli camps have espoused purported "solutions" to the conflict that invoke these rejectionist means. Suffice it to say that international law forbids such unilateral action. However, bilateral and multilateral agreements to transfer populations are permitted by international law if offered to the transferees on a truly voluntary basis, if the process is orderly and humane, and if compensation for abandoned property is provided. Whether one-sided or compulsory economic incentives or imposed political conditions can be considered voluntary depends on the individual context. I believe that the traditional discourse which attempts to divide Palestinians into categories based on from where and when they left and why they left is bound to lead nowhere. There will never be agreement on the "magic number." Moreover, the numbers game is inherently retrospective and blame-ridden, and as time passes,

the categories (1948 v. 1967, voluntary v. involuntary, Green Line v. territories v. diaspora) blur and become harder to distinguish anyway. Instead, I think the most humanitarian and pragmatic way to resolve the refugee issue is by focusing on current needs. A priority ranking of the most vulnerable Palestinian populations — those who urgently need permanent solutions to their residential and legal status — would look something like this:

- 1) residents of the most over-crowded and unsanitary refugee camps in Gaza;
- 2) given Lebanon's oft-stated intention to "expel them, residents of the most vulnerable refugee camps in Lebanon;
- 3) all other refugee camp residents in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the West Bank and Gaza;
- 4) all other refugees, including Palestinian residents of other Middle Eastern states, most of whom are stateless.

It can be assumed that most of the non-camp Palestinians of Jordan, who have Jordanian citizenship and are rather firmly settled there, would be willing

to remain in the Kingdom, if they can be given either Palestinian-Jordanian dual citizenship or a Palestinian identity card, as well as compensation for property abandoned in 1948. Similarly, although the 350,000 Palestinians of Syria do not have citizenship, most are virtual citizens in all but name, living in permanent housing in neighbourhoods of Damascus. Syria should agree to grant them citizenship and not consider dual Palestinian citizenship as a sign of disloyalty. (A large number of Palestinians might be willing to accept permanent absorption and citizenship in their present locales in Jordan and Syria. Integration in asylum countries is one of the three commonly acknowledged "durable solutions" to refugee crises, the others being repatriation and resettlement in third countries. It should not be considered an ineffectual or "copout" solution for Palestinians.)

That would leave somewhere in the neighbourhood of one to one-and-a-half million Palestinians for whom repatriation to the West Bank or Gaza or a package of resettlement compensation and

citizenship in other North African and Gulf states are possible options. Moreover, based on discussions with both Palestinian and Israeli moderates, I believe it will be possible for an Israeli Labour government to accept between 50,000 and 100,000 returnees to Haifa, Jaffa and other Palestinian ancestral homes within Israel, so long as there is a concomitant commitment by Israel's neighbours to offer permanent settlement to comparable numbers in their own countries. (One hundred thousand is the figure that Israel agreed to readmit back in 1949. That was a much greater percentage then, relative to Israel's Jewish population at that time and relative to the Palestinian population of the time than it is in today's demographic framework.) These returnees to Israel would be screened to preclude anyone who have previously engaged in terrorism and be required to demonstrate proof of original residence there, as well as agree to live in peace.

Consistent with the principle of voluntary transfer and free choice among a variety of viable options, this is a framework of what

might be called "balanced compromises" which offers dignity through compensation, group identity and protection through membership in a duly-recognised Palestinian nationality, and — through a rational limit on the number who actually repatriate to either Israel or Palestine, the economic and political stability that the entire region needs. It could be administered by a joint commission of Palestinians, Israelis, Jordanians, Syrians, Lebanese and Egyptians, with perhaps ex-officio members from the United States, Canada, Russia and other countries, both inside and outside the Middle East, which will underwrite the process with financial resources.

Even a long-standing taboo such as this one can indeed be addressed, and even resolved, so long as the negotiators have been primed through public discussion of a small set of basic principles, the most fundamental being: acceptance of one's neighbours as permanent and regular fellow citizens, rather than as mortal enemies or political pawns.

Centrists seen to sweep elections

(Continued from page 1)

statement from Ruseifeh two hours later announcing their withdrawal "because of the unfair elections."

During a tour of polling centres, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker criticised "the withdrawal of some people" and described it as "illegal."

He said those who want to contest the elections should go to court instead of withdrawing, which is against the law.

Jordanians voted on Tuesday for 231 councils out of 259 since 28 councils and their Mayors were elected last week by acclamation.

Official figures indicate that 789,274 voters had reg-

istered to vote.

Voting centres opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.

Five leftist opposition parties are also contesting the elections: the Communist Party, the Democratic Popular Party, the Popular Union Party, the Progressive Baathist Party and the Democratic Front.

In contrast to parliamentary elections, members of the Armed Forces were allowed to vote.

In Irbid, early morning turnout at the polling stations was weak, but it increased in the afternoon, especially at the women's polling stations.

Nearly 28,000 of the 126,436 registered voters

showed up for the Irbid municipality voting.

The highest turnout was for the municipality of Kourah with 62.8.

The average turnout for all Irbid municipalities was 59.6 per cent.

"Voter turnout in the morning was weak but it rose in the afternoon," said one official at one of the 88 centres.

The official told the Jordan Times that the elections went smoothly except of some cases where voters had forgotten to bring their identification cards, and "they were not allowed to vote."

Seven blocs completed in Irbid.

Irbid citizens voiced their satisfaction over the municipal elections.

"This was a good opportunity for me and my family members to discuss who and why we want to vote for," said a 53-year-old teacher.

A 28-year-old woman said that the elections were an excellent opportunity for women to exercise their rights to vote.

"We have to vote for the right person and encourage other women to exercise their rights and not to waste it," she said.

She said that the candidates she voted for were people who proved in the past that they did something for Irbid, adding that she also gave her vote to the only

woman (Aisheh Abu Salem) candidate in Irbid.

"I voted for her because she is a woman and because I am convinced that she can do something, and I wish that more women ran for the elections," said the woman.

However, a housewife said that she did not vote for Mrs. Abu Salem because she said she believed that she does not belong in the city council.

"I believe that the woman's place is at home, and there is no need for her to work in such a position since men are stronger and can bear better responsibilities," the 42-year-old woman said.

Israel, PLO near accord

(Continued from page 1)

Israel-PLO breakthrough deal signed in Washington in September 1993.

An Israeli move out of West Bank towns and balloting for a Palestinian council are already a year behind schedule, delayed by Israel's insistence on strict security arrangements after a series of deadly bombings by militants.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsur said in Cairo that water and security arrangements were the main hurdles.

The PLO is demanding precise dates for redeployment from all West Bank towns and villages before voting.

Israel wants to keep troops in the flashpoint town of Hebron and parts of Ramallah and Bethlehem as well as maintain control over villages until after the ballot.

In Nabulus, a vanguard of 60 PLO policemen has already moved in under the guise of municipal employees ahead of the Israeli pullout,

town hall sources said. The men, who arrived Monday, were all in official police uniforms with an added arm badge stating "Nabulus Town Hall."

Nabulus is scheduled to be among four towns in the north of the territory evacuated by Israel as soon as the deal is implemented.

There were no reports of similar police units reaching the other towns: Jenin, Tul-karem and Kalkilya.

Israeli and PLO security officials were pursuing military redeployment talks on Tuesday, army officials said.

In Gaza City, Palestinian Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said he would have a "decisive" meeting Wednesday or Thursday for the release of Palestinian prisoners.

He said he would meet Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Justice Minister David Libal "to draw up a timetable to free the prisoners."

Israel has pledged to release several hundred prisoners when the self-rule agreement is signed and several hundred more after elections.

Study recommends free trade

(Continued from page 12)

The experience of other economic blocs in the developing world has established that countries with smaller and poorer economies gained better from such alliances with bigger and richer economies, as is the case with Israel, which has a gross national product of \$65 billion compared with around \$5 billion for Jordan and a similar figure for the Palestinians.

The opening of the Jordanian market with preferential treatment for Israeli products does not mean a big difference for the Israeli economy, but preferential access for Jordan to the Israeli market would make a difference to the Kingdom.

Jordan has the option to retain its tariff barriers for a period of 15 years, during which period it has to introduce a gradual process of trade liberalisation while it negotiates the customs union.

Opening up the Jordanian market for Palestinian products could take up to five years during which Jordan could make its own internal adjustments.

Without export markets the Palestinian economy will not grow. As such making available markets for Palestinian products is the

was blocking its implementation. The reference was to an Israel-PLO accord on economic cooperation signed in Paris in April 1994.

Dr. Awartani said the Palestinians were engaged in "hard-nosed negotiations" with the Israelis to improve the terms of the agreement.

The study said the proposed free trade and customs union agreement "would benefit all parties."

The combination of a highly protected Jordanian market, an externally controlled economy in the West Bank and Gaza, the Arab boycott of Israel and Israeli restrictions on the trade of the West Bank and Gaza have stifled the natural patterns of trade," it noted. "Eliminating these politically imposed obstacles to rational resource allocation should increase intra-Triad trade and enhance growth."

Other countries in the region, including Syria, Lebanon and Iraq as well as others could join in the agreement "if they agree to play by the rules," said Dr. Lawrence, while Dr. Awartani noted that Jordan's trade agreements with other Arab countries and the proposed accord with Israel and the Palestinians were "not mutually exclusive."

However, the panelists noted in response to questions from the audience that decades-old repeated Arab declarations and vows of cooperation and "half-hearted efforts" at improving inter-Arab trade have not achieved much as clearly evident in the volume of

trade among the Arab countries today.

At the same time, the study noted, "In addition to the benefits of each partner, free trade would benefit the region as a whole. Thus far, none of the Triad economies have been particularly successful in attracting foreign investment."

"The prospects of a sizeable, thriving region will open trade and a diverse skill base could help create a new emerging market which would bring much needed foreign capital and investment to all of the partners."

"A thriving regional arrangement would also induce other Middle Eastern countries to join," it added.

During the debate that followed the presentation of the study, the panelists rejected out of hand suggestions that Jordan was not yet ready and that a free trade accord should "wait" until the Kingdom is ready.

There is no such thing as any country being ready, they said, emphasising that the acceptance by businessmen of the fact that they have to compete and thrive is the basic essence of free trade.

Ross

(Continued from page 1)

Shortly before Mr. Ross flew in from Israel, an official Syrian newspaper said peace in the Middle East was becoming an urgent need not only for Arabs but also for the Israeli and American administrations who are heading for elections in 1996.

It said Mr. Ross' current tour was important but added that other missions by higher U.S. officials might be needed in the near future.

Gulf Arab states curb spending to tackle deficit

ABU DHABI (AFP)—Gulf Arab states are tightening their belts gradually to tackle a chronic budget deficit after years of lavish government spending sapped their coffers and turned some of them into debtor nations.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which control 45 per cent of the world's oil, projected a seven-year low spending in 1995 and most of them have already made clear they would make further cuts in coming years.

Expenditure was projected at around \$68.8 billion in 1995, down from \$71.4 billion in 1994 and \$81.9 billion in 1992.

This compares with a record \$124 billion in 1991, when most of them contributed heavily to a U.S.-led military coalition that ousted Iraqi invasion forces from Kuwait.

The 1995 spending was the lowest since 1988, when expenditure dipped to around \$58 billion as oil prices collapsed to below \$10 due to a production war among key oil producers.

"You should rationalise expenditure and restrict it to important and necessary things," the Saudi Press Agency quoted King Fahd as telling his cabinet ministers at their weekly meeting on Monday.

Saudi Arabia, the world's

top oil producer and exporter, has made the heaviest spending cuts in the GCC as it relies on crude exports and its coffers were badly hurt by the 1991 Gulf war.

In 1994, the kingdom slashed expenditure by nearly 20 per cent to \$42.66 billion from \$52.5 billion in 1993.

It again tightened spending in 1995 to \$40 billion slashing the projected deficit to \$4 billion from around \$10 billion, according to official figures.

Kuwait cut spending to \$13.4 billion in fiscal year 1994-1995 from \$14.4 billion in the previous year. It has announced plans to make further cuts in the coming years to eliminate the deficit in the year 2000.

Bahrain also reduced expenditure to \$1.7 billion from \$1.79 billion while Oman and Qatar projected a slight rise on the grounds their deficits are manageable, according to bankers.

Although the remaining member, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has kept projected federal expenditure almost unchanged over the past few years, it has cut actual spending through the year, slashing the shortfall in some years and turning it into a surplus in other years.

Predicting no improvement in oil prices, the UAE Finance and Industry Ministry told government departments

last week to keep their belts tightened.

"You must consider tightening expenditure compared with that in 1995 and excluding unnecessary spending," the ministry said in a letter.

Bankers said GCC governments were gradually rationalising their budgets to avert an immediate detriment to their economies as government spending has remained the main factor in domestic development.

The bankers noted that while the GCC private sector's share of the gross domestic product has risen to around 40 per cent from less than 30 per cent in 1985, it still heavily depends on state budgets for new projects.

GCC states produce around 13 million barrels per day of oil, providing more than 80 per cent of their income. Weak oil prices have also forced them to announce reforms, including privatisation for the first time.

Their belt-tightening policies have slowed down their economies but succeeded in slashing the budget deficit to around \$9.6 billion in 1995 from \$17.3 billion in 1994 and a record \$55 billion in 1991.

Bankers said the deficit could be lower in the next years if oil prices do not deteriorate and member states stick to rationalisation plans.

Prices surge as Iraqi dinar sinks to lowest level

BAGHDAD (R)—The Iraqi dinar has hit another low against the U.S. dollar, leading to a further surge in prices of essential foodstuffs.

The dollar was trading at more than 1,450 dinars on Baghdad black market on Tuesday, up from 1,250 last month. Baghdad traders said demand for the greenback was high and predicted further slumps in local currency.

The downturn in the dinar's value caused what traders described as an unprecedented rise in prices of essential commodities.

In less than 24 hours last week, one kilogramme of sugar jumped to about 2,000 dinars from 700. The average monthly salary of a government employee in Iraq is 3,500 dinars.

Eggs, tea, rice, cooking oil, chicken and meat also soared. A tray of 30 eggs rose to 2,750 from 2,250, tea to 1,600 from 1,000.

"They (prices) are like flames which no one can touch," said a woman in a popular market in Baghdad.

Residents said many Baghdadis were selling the little they had left of their personal belongings. On pavements in

several Baghdad squares and open spaces, people exhibited furniture, chinaware, blankets, radio and T.V. sets and some even displayed family copies of Islam's holy book, the Koran.

The official press, urging the government to do something to curb the hikes, blamed profiteers and speculators.

Babel newspaper of President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, spoke this week of "economic chaos and confusion." It urged "speedy measures" to curb prices and also "a crackdown on food-stuff marketeers."

"Prices of foodstuffs have reached astronomical levels, beyond one's imagination," it said in a commentary.

The Trade Ministry intervened and announced on Monday that ships laden with sugar and other foodstuffs were on way to unload cargo at Iraq's southern port of Umm Qasir.

The announcement had sudden effect on prices and sugar slumped to about 1,000 dinars from 2,000 on Tuesday in Baghdad.

"The market is so volatile.

Rumours can push it up and down," a trader said.

With its oil exports choked off and assets abroad frozen, the government has no means to halt rampant inflation. It has turned down a U.N. offer to sell limited quantities of oil to pay for urgent humanitarian needs, saying the conditions infringe on Iraq's sovereignty.

Traders attributed the latest hikes in prices and the dinar's slump to hefty subsidies the government is paying farmers shipping their summer yields of wheat and barley to government silos.

Iraqi farmers are not as badly hit by U.N. trade sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. They now can be seen frequenting Baghdad's smartest hotels and restaurants, a rare scene prior to sanctions.

About 30 per cent of Iraq's 18 million people rely on farming.

Hardest hit are low income Iraqis who, according to U.N. estimates constitute about five million people. The U.N. says four million of them are in need of food aid and one million are threatened with hunger.

Oman to offer concession areas to foreign companies

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Oman will offer new oil concession locations to international oil companies following a production sharing agreement with Total of France, Oman's oil minister said Monday.

The minister, Said Al Sharaf, told the newspaper Al Watan that his ministry will offer an international tender for oil concession in 10 onshore and offshore areas. He provided no further details.

Oman has a total of 20 concession areas leased to foreign companies including U.S. Occidental, Amoco, Conquest and Compact, as well as Japan's Japex and France Elf.

However, most of Oman's daily crude oil output of around 800,000 barrels per day is produced by the government-controlled Petroleum Development Oman.

The latest exploration programme is part of its efforts to increase Oman's proven reserves of 5.2 billion barrels.

Oman is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries but cooperates closely with the cartel's policies.

Turkish PM in Azerbaijan to boost economic ties

BAKU (R)—Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller arrived in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, on Monday for a two-day visit focused on deepening economic ties with the Turkish-speaking former Soviet republic.

Ms. Ciller, accompanied by Turkish businessmen and bankers, told reporters she wanted to discuss ways to intensify economic cooperation and widen the role of Turkish capital in Azerbaijan.

Baku, which put out hundreds of Turkish and Azeri flags for the visit, greeted Ms. Ciller with huge portraits of the Turkish premier hanging from public buildings.

Ms. Ciller met Azeri President Heydar Aliyev immediately after arrival.

An Azeri Foreign Ministry official told reporters that Ms. Ciller would discuss extending the terms of \$250 million credit which Ankara has lent to Azerbaijan.

She will also hold preliminary talks on a possible \$600 million Turkish credit to modernise Azeri light industry.

Mr. Ciller will open an Azeri-Turkish bank in Baku on Tuesday and meet members of an international consortium which signed a \$8 billion oil deal to develop

three Caspian Sea fields.

Led by the British Petroleum/Stateoil Alliance, the consortium includes Amoco Corp., Exxon Corp., McDermott International, Pennzoil Co., Unocal Corp., Range Energy Plc, Lukoil, Saudi Arabia's Delta Nimir and Turkish Petroleum Corp.

The consortium, debating export routes for the project, has narrowed its options on early output exports been in the second half of 1996 to Russia and Georgia.

Russia is pushing for its Novorossiysk outlet to be used and Turkey is lobbying for the construction of a pipeline to its Yumurtalik oil terminals on its Mediterranean coast.

Ms. Ciller, on a previous visit to Baku in April, said she could mobilise funds from the United States to finance the pipeline.

The pipeline's route is still undecided. A westward route through neighbouring Armenia has been ruled out because of eight years of conflict between Yerevan and Baku.

Turkey supports Azerbaijan, with which it shares common language and cultural links, in its conflict with Armenia and wants Armenian forces to evacuate one-fifth of Azeri lands.

Latin coffee producers seek to cut supply

BOGOTA (AFP)—The world's top two coffee exporters, Brazil and Colombia, agreed Monday with four smaller Central American producer countries to cut back sharply on coffee exports to try to boost prices, officials said.

Colombian Coffee Growers Federation (Fedecafe) president Jorge Cardenas told reporters the two major producers along with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua had sealed a deal to reduce supplies to drain the market's glut.

"We are sure the agreement is going to represent a very positive message for the international coffee market," Mr. Cardenas said. "This has to bring about a strengthening of the market, a stabilising of prices and indeed a recovery in those prices."

"Every country's effort has been very important," he said. "Each one, taking into account its abilities and size, has made an enormous financial and economic effort to be able to limit supply."

But the Fedecafe chief denied the cartel's concerted action was a declaration of war on consumer countries. "It is a declaration of defending producer countries' interest," he said.

Mr. Cardenas told reporters the six agreed to limit their combined exports over the next four quarters to 28 million sacks. Each sack weighs 60 kilograms.

Much of the mystery surrounding the meeting was what direction Brazil would

take.

The success of measures aimed at driving up prices by reducing supply depends largely on participation by Brazil, as the largest coffee exporting country, and the shape that participation takes.

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador together account for around 50 per cent of world exports, according to International Coffee Organisation data.

Colombia and the four Central American coffee countries last week announced they were suspending coffee sales registries to try to boost sagging prices.

The Fedecafe chief said they likely would resume sales within a few days as long as prices head higher, and that Brazil was set to commit firmly to keeping its exports locked at an agreed maximum volume.

Brazil in fact agreed to export a maximum of three million sacks in each of the coming four quarters, through June 1996.

Colombia agreed to export

no more than two million sacks in the July-September quarter; 3.3 million in the October-December quarter; 2.25 million in the January-March 1996 quarter and 2.37 million in the April-June 1996 period. The remaining shares were divided among the smaller Central American exporters.

Mr. Cardenas noted that the six coffee producers had been averaging about five million bags per month in exports over the past nine months and that if they held at 15 million sacks for the quarter, stocks in importing countries should drop to eight or nine million sacks in September.

"That is the target that we want to hit," Mr. Cardenas said.

An official statement released after the meeting said the withholding plan agreed in Bogota would be presented to the next meeting of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries so that additional member countries could consider limiting their own exports.

Turkish businessmen invest in troubled southeast

ISTANBUL (R)—Turkish businessmen have started to tap the economic potential of the southeastern region where an 11-year-old separatist Kurdish insurgency has claimed more than 17,000 lives.

A company manufacturing ready-to-wear clothes being set up by businessmen from western and southeastern Turkey is the first venture to take advantage of the textile potential of the southeast's main city, Diyarbakir.

"My aim is to create jobs for the poor and unemployed people here. There is cheap labour and local businessmen with some funds to invest, but they need guidance and now the west is giving us a hand," said Mustafa Akyl, a cotton farmer who is the local partner in the venture.

The venture's partners are a group of Aegean region readywear industrialists and exporters, who will export the output to existing European markets after operations start in October. It expects to earn \$10 million a year from exports.

Diyarbakir, the heart of Turkey's fight against the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebel group, has in recent years seen

an influx of migrants from poor rural areas where traditional animal grazing has been dealt a serious blow by intensified fighting.

Its urban population has swelled to more than one million from 481,000 in 1985, leading to massive unemployment.

The city, where residents feared going out at night in the early 1990s because of a series of mystery killings, is now relatively trouble-free.

The new firm — its name yet to be decided — will produce cotton bedsheets, underwear and T-shirts, with a 15-billion lira (\$337,000) capital and 250 workers.

"We have a pioneer mission. Local Akyl firm is new in the readywear sector. We studied the region, there is qualified labour and good cotton," Selami Gurguc, chairman of EGS Exports Company formed by 200 Aegean readywear producers, told Reuters.

Businessmen in the mainly Kurdish southeast have long complained of a lack of private and state investment there.

"I think the region's potential is very big for future investments in textile and readywear because there is the opportunity to grow cotton with better quality than the one in the (Mediterranean) Adana region," Mr. Gurguc said, listing food and soil-based production as other promising sectors.

Lebanese bank expects to double profits in 1995

BEIRUT (R)—Lebanon's Metropolitan Bank reported a 95 per cent rise in profits for 1994 and said it was preparing to double its capital in 1995.

The privately-owned bank's 1994 balance sheet obtained by Reuters on Tuesday showed that profits rose to 163.6 million Lebanese pounds (\$99,000) from 83.7 million pounds in 1993.

Total assets rose 26 per cent to 60.7 billion pounds (\$37 million from 48 billion pounds), and loans to customer also rose 26 per cent to 17 billion pounds from 13.6 billion.

Customer deposits rose 20 per cent to 49 billion pounds from 41 billion, the bank added.

Chairman Mershed Baaklini said in an accompanying letter that customer deposits and total assets grew a further 22 per cent and 30 per cent in the first half of 1995 and facilities to customers also rose by 48 per cent.

Mr. Baaklini said the bank's six shareholders had received central bank approval to double its paid up capital to six billion pounds (\$3.7 million) by cash injection and the operation would be completed soon.

Metropolitan Bank, which has five branches, ranks 48th among Lebanon's 82 banks in size of customer deposits.

Exchange rates for end 1993 and 1994 are 1,711 and 1,647 Lebanese pounds to the U.S. dollar.

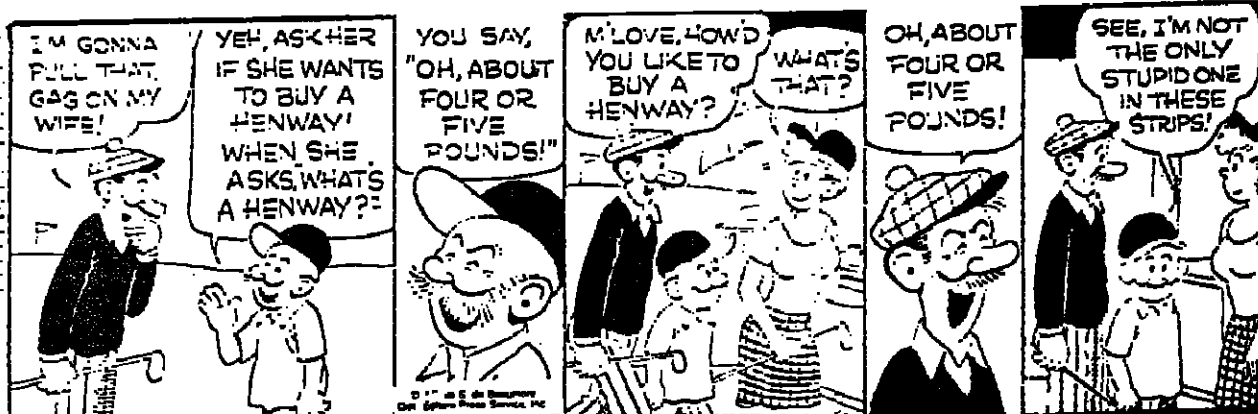
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Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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BREEMM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SOUSE GOURD FLURRY BELONG
Answer: Always follows this when making hamburgers — THE "GROUND" RULES

CROSSWORDS NOT RECEIVED

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The triple Moon square to Venus, Mercury and Jupiter, combined with the opposition of Mars makes this a day and evening when individuals share an inability to express emotions and affections towards one another.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Morning is the best time to handle necessary affairs. Get caught up on routine activities. The evening can prove profitable for you now.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get personal affairs handled well in the morning. Know what your goals are, then go towards gaining them with profitable activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Morning is the best time to get practical matters improved. Be social with all your friends in the evening. Increase your popularity.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy at whatever you administer in the evening. Be with your most devoted admirer in the evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Handle those civic affairs you have neglected in the morning. Be loyal to a bigwig in the morning and you will get a lot of appreciation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to please one who has power over you, whether in business or personal life in the evening and you will be very successful.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Attend to business affairs well in the morning. Later, you can enter into new activities which are more interesting and profitable.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to keep promises to a partner, even if it takes a while. After a busy day, enjoy the company of your mate or loved one.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy at tasks in the morning, but after lunch you can accomplish much in the outside world. Attend a nice party in the evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get busy perfecting a special skill in the morning. Relax and rest up in the evening for a very busy day tomorrow.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get busy improving home conditions in the morning. Later, be with good friends at the entertainment of your choice.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can communicate very well in the morning, but later the focus should be on home or loved ones. Show appreciation for your friends.

Birthstone of Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Aqaba to store Qatari gas

Aqaba will be used for storing Qatari liquefied gas is then exported to Europe. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah said. He said an American company working in the field of prospecting for and transporting Qatari oil offered to store gas in the port city until it is transported to Europe by sea. He said that the company also offered to give Jordan priority in purchasing its needs of gas. The minister said Jordan accepted the offer, provided that it be sold 500,000 tonnes of gas in 1995 to be used in generating electricity at Aqaba's Al Hussein Thermal Station (Al Dustour).

The Ministry of Education will this year offer tenders worth JD 180 million. Director of the ministry's Projects and Buildings Department Yahya Kasbi said. Mr. Kasbi said the department plans to establish new school buildings in various parts of the Kingdom at a cost of JD 141 million and to build additional classrooms at some schools for JD 15 million. He said the department also plans to purchase educational technological devices for JD 18 million, build teachers' clubs in various areas for JD 2 million and expand administrative buildings for JD 1.7 million. Mr. Kasbi said the ministry will soon start constructing a building for the examinations department for the cost of JD 1 million (Al Ra'i).

Commander of the Amman Central Workshops of the Royal Maintenance Corps Brigadier Yazan Aljouni said the department's work in repairing and maintaining military equipment saves the state budget large amounts of money which are used to import new machinery and spare parts. He said in addition to developing the Volkswagen cars, the corps plays a major role in repairing and rebuilding motorcycles. He said the workshops managed to repair 50 Honda motorcycles, noting that some of them were out of service since 1972. He said the workshops were about to repair some other 50 motorcycles (Al Ra'i).

The National Maritime Lines Company purchased a new ship, increasing the number of ships owned by the company to five. Company Director General Yasser Al Tal said the new ship, named "Al Safi," was expected to turn in high financial profits, noting that the company was also planning to buy two others before the end of the year. He said the new ship will join the company's fleet in transporting Jordanian exports. The company, Mr. Tal said, currently operates four ships to transport phosphates and potash to India. Since it started its activities in 1980, the company has made more than JD 15 million in profits, distributing from it more than JD 8 million to shareholders (Al Ra'i).

Oil markets shrug off Russian leader's health scare

LONDON (R) — World oil markets reacted calmly to news that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was taken to hospital with a heart problem since even a change in leadership is not expected to significantly impact oil flows.

Oil prices touch seven-month low

LONDON (R) — Oil prices were pushed to their lowest mark for seven months on Monday before recovering ground as a series of bearish factors continued to put pressure on the market, analysts said.

World benchmark Brent Blend Oil Futures for August touched \$15.80 a barrel, its lowest price since hitting \$15.86 on December 20 before regaining ground during thin trading.

Prices followed suit in New York with spot crude contracts dropping below the critical psychological threshold of \$17 a barrel to \$16.95 before trimming early losses.

At 1957 GMT, the August Brent contract on London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) had recovered to \$16.12, up six cents from Friday's close.

The recovery was triggered in part by a market rumour of a problem with a Houston refinery. This was later denied but brokers said it had given the market the impetus to correct after last week's losses.

Technically the downward trend was still intact and prices would see today's lows again, they added.

Analysts, who predicted last week that crude had further to fall after touching a previous low for the year of \$16.00, said a perception of OPEC oversupply, U.S. sanctions against Iran and a glut of Russian oil, were combining to put pressure on the market.

immediately nervous. Now the market knows Yeltsin is not the only man who can run the FSU (former Soviet Union)," said Peter Gignoux, head of Smith, Barney's London energy desk.

Brent Blend Crude Oil Futures on London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE) started the day just a few cents a barrel firmer but a slight bounce from Monday's 28-week lows had been expected.

At 1020 GMT, August Brent on the IPE stood at

\$16.21 a barrel, up just 10 cents from Monday's close. London traders said news that Mr. Yeltsin was taken to hospital on Tuesday after a heart condition worsened had no discernible impact on early trade.

Mr. Yeltsin's official spokesman said the Russian leader was well enough to work from his hospital bed and that "nothing serious" had happened to him.

"The market was totally non-plussed by the news. Even a change in leadership

isn't expected to really affect export flows" because they are so important to the economy, said Tim Holmes of Broker Mees Pierson.

Mr. Yeltsin, president of Russia since June 1991, had been due to attend talks in Moscow on Tuesday on the constitutional status of the eastern Siberian region Buryatia. He has not indicated whether he will stand for reelection in June next year.

While no oil market participants can deny the import-

ance of Russia to world supplies, lessons learned from the aborted coup attempt in 1991 have made traders reluctant to react to headlines.

Then oil prices rallied sharply on fears that exports would be affected by the coup attempt but later dropped just as dramatically when flows continued unabated.

"It would be reading too much into it to say someone new (taking over from Yeltsin) might suspend oil exports," said Chris Bellew of Brokers Prudential Bache.

Because of old equipment and a lack of investment, ex-Soviet crude oil output has slumped 40 per cent since 1990 from 11.5 million to 6.84 million barrels per day. But an almost equally large decline in domestic demand has left exports buoyant. Renewed production from Russia has new fields in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are expected to halt the decline over the next two years.

Just last week, Russia's upper parliament chamber postponed voting on a key

production-sharing law that could attract huge oil and gas investments.

Foreign companies are waiting for the production-sharing law to be enacted before proceeding with planned and new investments that could total \$50 billion or more in Russia's giant oil and gas sector.

The Fuel and Energy Ministry has said the legislation — which will iron out tax and jurisdiction issues — is crucial to reversing steep declines in the industry.

Exporters nervous as anti-French boycott starts to bite

PARIS (AFP) — French exporters of wines and spirits on Tuesday expressed growing concern over the effects of an international boycott of their products, which after sharply depressing sales in Australia and New Zealand, was threatening to spread to northern Europe.

"We are above all afraid the problem is going to get

worse," said Louis-Regis Affres of the Wines and Spirits Federation (FEVS), referring to the consumer boycott sparked by France's decision to resume testing nuclear weapons at its South Pacific test site.

He said exporters feared that the boycott would build up steam over the summer, in the run-up to the first test,

scheduled for September.

Concern was heightened on Tuesday by a call from the Danish branch of the European supermarket chain SPAR for its storekeepers to boycott French goods.

SPAR Director for Denmark Jan Nielsen called on the company's 280 independent franchisees in the country — and also those else-

where — to take all "wines, cheeses, fruits and vegetables and other French products" off their shelves in protest at "the arrogant attitude of the French government."

The movement has so far attracted the most attention in Australia and New Zealand, where people see the Polynesian test site as being

in their back yards.

The Official Centre for Foreign Trade (CFCE) admitted on Tuesday that sales of French wines and spirits in those countries were down by between 20 and 40 per cent since President Jacques Chirac announced the resumption of tests last month.

Hollywood 'good guy' from Creative Artists to head MCA

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Ron Meyer, a high-school dropout who favours sneakers over wingtips and became one of Hollywood's hottest agents while still managing to be nice, will head entertainment giant MCA Inc.

Those who worked with 50-year-old Meyer said his U.S. Marines-bred discipline and organisation, coupled with his kindness, made him stand out in a town known for big talk and oversized egos.

A laid-back man given to wearing jeans, sweaters and tennis shoes to work, he is married to former model Kelly Chapman with whom he has an 18-month-old daughter. He has two teenage children from a previous marriage.

From his first job as a junior agent with Paul Kohner Agency up through the William Morris Agency and Creative Artists Agency (CAA), those who worked with him said he was marked for success from the start.

"He was a wonderful young man. He had this wide awake intensity. He wanted to learn about everything," said Irene Hayman, who worked with him at Paul Kohner when he was about 18 years old.

After working as a show salesman in Beverly Hills, Mr. Meyer said he got his break after a friend recommended him for a position as a junior agent. Starting salary — \$75 a week plus lunch at a

nearby deli.

"Everyone liked him. I knew he'd be a great agent someday," Ms. Hayman said from her Beverly Hills home. "But I can't say I expected something this big."

MCA did not say how much Mr. Meyer would earn, but when MCA was courting CAA Chairman Michael Ovitz recently he was offered a 250-million-dollar deal but he held out for a richer arrangement.

Mr. Meyer will become president and chief operating officer of MCA Inc. entertainment unit, giving him one of the most powerful jobs in Hollywood. In addition to Universal Pictures, MCA has television production, theme parks, music and publishing

operations.

Seagram bought 80 per cent of MCA in May from the Japan-based Matsushita Electric Industrial Company for \$5.7 billion and had been looking for someone to run the company since.

Mr. Meyer, who worked for Mr. Ovitz of CAA is known as one of the kinder, gentler souls in the file capital. He personally represented such stars as Sylvester Stallone, Michael Douglas, Meryl Streep, Demi Moore, Tom Cruise and Whoopi Goldberg.

What will he do as the head of MCA?

"I don't know but whatever it is he will be wildly successful," said someone who has worked with him of

CAA for years but who asked not to be identified. "He is one of the best in the business. He has all of the Boy Scout virtues and can be a very good friend," she added.

One major change for Mr. Meyer will be moving from a seller of talent who sought to push up his clients asking prices for films, to a buyer seeking to keep a lid on the ever-burgeoning costs of making movies.

Mr. Meyer's departure from Creative Artists, where he often served as the softer counter weight to Mr. Ovitz' aggressive and often-resented style, could be a major loss for the agency founded in 1970.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3540/50	Canadian dollar
	1.4008/18	Deutschmarks
	1.5684/94	Dutch guilders
	1.1612/22	Swiss francs
	28.75/79	Belgian francs
	4.8640/90	French francs
	1616.0/1.0	Italian lire
	87.22/32	Japanese yen
	7.2350/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2220/70	Norwegian crowns
	5.4510/60	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5896/06	
One ounce of gold	\$385.15/385.35	

World Basketball Championship Jordan take on Italy today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's Under-18 national basketball team play the first of their matches when they take on Italy in the World Basketball Championship which opens in Athens today with 16 countries taking part.

Italy were the runners up in 1992 and third place in 1987, while they had finished sixth in 1979 and 1983.

Jordan is playing in Group C which is probably the toughest as it also includes titleholders the U.S. and Australia.

Group A includes China, Venezuela, Lithuania and Croatia.

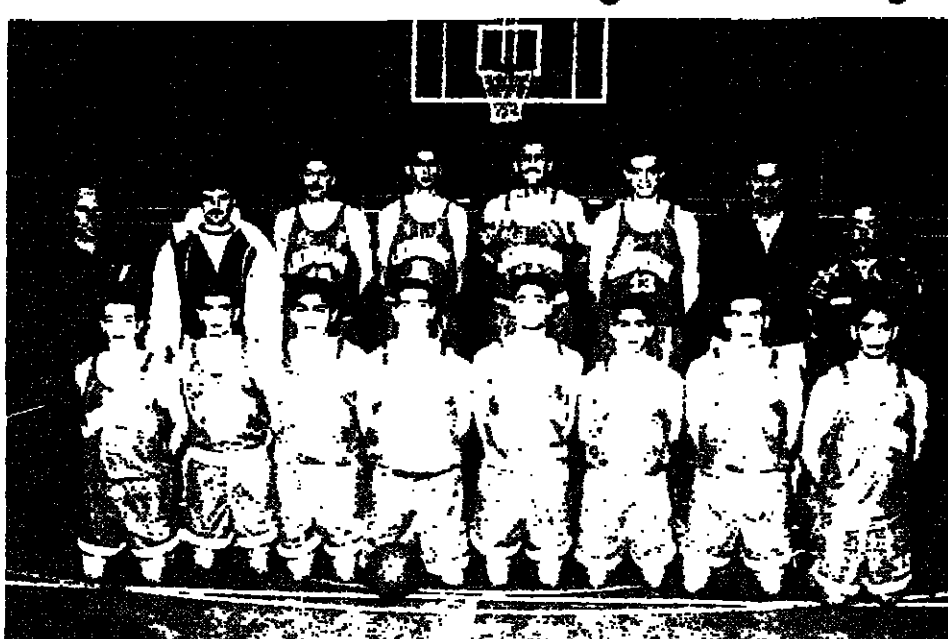
Group B includes Nigeria, S. Korea, Argentina and France.

Group D includes Angola, Puerto Rico, Greece and Spain.

The first round matches will run up to July 21st when the competing teams start playing the second round. The qualifiers will play for the 1-16th places in the final round July 22.

Together with China and S. Korea, Jordan is representing Asia after clinching the continent's third place in the Asian Youth Championship in Manila in March.

Jordan is only the third Arab country to qualify for



The Kingdom's U-18 national basketball team

the World Championship as Egypt finished last in Sao Paulo in 1979 while Syria came in 12th among 16 in the 1992 championship in Canada.

While knowing very well that an advanced standing is difficult to achieve, Jordan's mere participation is a historic event as this is the only national team ever to make it to a world championship. The team has had a thorough training schedule for the past six months and their preparations were

capped by competing in the Men's Asian Championship where the team finished 17th among 19 participating teams gaining match experience against better, stronger teams.

The team includes Zeid

Alkhas, Ma'an Odeh, Ashraf Samarah, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Samer Nino, Ihab Msh, Ramzi Ghneim, Fadi Al Saqqa, Zeid Zu'mot, Ra'ed Ghosheh, Ziyad Naghoj, and Seif Lada.

1992 championship standing

1. U.S.	7. Brazil	12. Syria
2. Italy	8. Canada	13. Angola
3. Argentina	9. Soviet Union	14. Uruguay
4. Yugoslavia	10. China	15. Nigeria
5. Romania	11. Australia	16. Japan
6. Spain		

Tour de France

Indurain's challengers down to last resort — the mountains

LIEGE, Belgium (AP) — Monday may have been a rest day for Miguel Indurain. For his rivals, it was a day to face those gnawing doubts — can the Spaniard still be caught in the mountains. The last four years he couldn't.

Tony Rominger and Evgeni were supposed to be his big challengers this year, but they both trail Indurain by well over two minutes going into the first Alpine stage.

"I wanted to do better than Rominger and Berzin. It's done," said Indurain, brimming with confidence after winning Sunday's time trial and earning the yellow jersey for the overall lead.

Indurain is chasing a record fifth straight Tour de France win and Monday's flight from Liege to Geneva brought him face to face with

his next challenge — the snowcapped peaks with those steep hairpin roads where time lost is usually counted in minutes, not seconds.

The first test comes when the remaining 170 riders face three of the biggest mountains in between Le Grand-Bornand and the peak finish in La Plagne.

Wednesday has perhaps the toughest test of all, with two mountains scaling 2,000 metres (2,188 yards) before finishing in L'alpe d'Huez, a mountain pass legendary in cycling lore.

That day the pack must scale three mountains "beyond category" as they are called in the tour's lingo, which rates climbs for steepness and toughness from 4 to 1 before designating a superlative rating to five tour mountains.

A master tactician, Indurain has never faded in the mountains and has often increased his lead over specialist climbers. It is an unpleasant prospect for the challengers.

If all-rounders like Berzin or Rominger trail by 2:20 and 2:30 minutes respectively, climbers like France's Richard Virenque and Italy's Claudio Chiapucci and Marco Pantani trail by 8 minutes and more.

But Indurain is the first to admit anything can still happen before the tour reaches Paris on July 23.

"There will be surprises, look at all the other years," said Indurain.

The biggest one so far is second in the standings, 23 seconds behind the Spaniard, a Dane named Bjarne Riis.

Totally unexpected, he

threatened Indurain up to the final few kilometres in the time trial.

At 31, he has long been a teammate rather than a team leader, and with Berzin designated leader in the Gewiss Team it might stir more trouble for Gewiss than for Indurain.

"I have shown I can be a leader of my team," Riis said.

"We can reach an agreement," said Berzin. "It's better to have two in the team to attack the yellow jersey."

Even though Riis is not specifically known as a climber, his fifth place overall in the 1993 tour proves he has staying power.

"I've put my whole season on the tour this year," Riis said.

New Kenyan distance sensation arrives

STOCKHOLM (R) — Barefoot Christopher Kosgei announced his arrival as the latest Kenyan distance sensation when he recorded the year's best 3,000 metres time at the Stockholm Grand Prix on Monday.

Kosgei, running his first race in Europe, beat compatriot and world record holder Moses Kiptanui in the last 10 metres of an event that was dominated by Kenyans, who grabbed the first four places.

The 20-year-old finished in eight minutes 06.86 seconds, almost 18 seconds faster than his previous personal best.

Kosgei, asked afterwards for the secret of his success, revealed he drank week-old milk in Kenya. He pledged to try to start using spikes but said he felt uncomfortable wearing them at the moment.

Kiptanui, acting as interpreter for Kosgei, predicted the newcomer would, and could, run much faster once he adopts spikes. Kosgei was almost five seconds outside Kiptanui's three-year-old world record time of eight minutes 02.08 seconds.

Kenyan Simon Chemoyiwo maintained his country's dominance of the distance events with a victory in the 5,000 metres in a personal best time of 13 minutes 02.79 seconds, the fourth fastest time this year.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola missed the world 1,000 metres record by just five hundredths of a second when she posted a time of two minutes 30.72 seconds, almost five seconds ahead of closest rival Regina Jacobs of the United States, who just beat Portugal's Carla Sacramento into third place.

American Michael Johnson ran the fourth fastest 200 metres this year with a time of 20.15 seconds, setting a track record at Stockholm's stadium on a balmy summer's evening with virtually no wind.

Johnson won comfortably ahead of Trinidad's Ato Boldon and Nigerian Daniel Effiong.

In the 110 metres hurdles, American Mark Crear's 13.20 failed to improve on the 13.02 best time he set in Switzerland two weeks ago but confirmed he is peaking in time for the World Championships in Gothenburg next month.

Compatriot Roger Kingdom, who finished fourth in 13.38, said after the race he was pulling out of two scheduled meetings and returning home for treatment to a slight leg injury.

"I was scheduled for two more meets in Europe but I need to take care of my body before Gothenburg."

WELLINGTON (AFP) — World rally championship series leader Carlos Sainz of Spain is likely to disregard the effect of a recent shoulder injury and operation to compete in Rally New Zealand at the end of July.

The 33-year-old, who injured his shoulder in a mountain bike accident, is scheduled to arrive in New Zealand Saturday to begin final testing with the British-based Subaru 555 rally team.

His health will be closely monitored by his own medical staff and by leading sports medicine doctor John Neale, who is closely connected with the New Zealand Rally organisation.

"Carlos will begin testing on the 14th (of July) and the team is certain it will be at a definite decision after he has had a couple of days behind the wheel," Morrie Chandler, clerk of the course for the rally, said Tuesday.

The Subaru team has already made contingency plans if it decides Sainz is not fit enough to carry out pre-event reconnaissance and then compete.

An entry has also been lodged for the team's fourth driver, Richard Burns, who would start the event alongside the winner of the past two years, Colin McRae, and Pukekohe's Possum Bourne.

Sainz holds a slender 12-point lead over Juha Kankkunen in the FIA world series and his chances of winning a third world championship would be dealt a serious blow if he could not compete in New Zealand.

Sainz likely to compete despite shoulder injury

"Carlos has proved almost unstoppable on our fast and smooth roads in previous rallies, which is one of the main reasons his team will be going all out to have him right by the start on the 27th," Chandler said.

Sainz won the New Zealand Rally three years in a row from 1990 to 1992. McRae arrived in Auckland on Monday, fresh from his victory in the Rally of Indonesia at the weekend.

He was supposed to start testing Wednesday, but the team's test car has been delayed a week in freighting from northern Sumatra, where it was used for pre-event testing for the Indonesian event early last month.

The Scotsman has an open mind as to whether he can complete a hat-trick of victories in the event.

"It's getting harder and harder every year to win here," said McRae.

"I think all the other works teams will be tough opposition."

Meanwhile, Ford has announced that local driver Neil Allport will drive its third official works entry.

The British-based RAS Ford team has already entered Frenchman Francois Delcourt and Belgian Bruno Thiry in Group A Ford Escort RS Cosworths.

"The rule changes for this year's series means that it is vital that these top teams enter three cars and we are thrilled that Ford has chosen a local driver of the quality of Neil to take the third car," Chandler said.

Sampras wants to beat Borg's record

LONDON (Agencies) — Pete Sampras, who clinched his third successive Wimbledon title on Sunday, hopes to surpass Bjorn Borg's achievement of five wins in the tournament.

"I hope I can win it six times," the American told officials and guests after the annual Wimbledon Championships dinner on Sunday night following his victory over former champion Boris Becker in the final.

"I have had a great run and I don't intend to let it stop here. Certainly I hope to see you all again same time, same place next year — at the winners' convention."

"I reckon I'm good for about 12 years in this game," Becker vowed he would remain among the toughest challengers for the next few years. "In my mind when you are still under 30 it doesn't matter in tennis whether you are 21 or 29 so long as you have the hunger and desire," he said.

"Actually it is a plus in a way because I'm a tougher opponent now even when I'm down because I'm mature enough to be in control. I'm not giving matches away. People have to beat me."

As for Sampras's chances of beating Borg's modern-era Wimbledon record of five consecutive men's singles titles between 1976 and 1980, Becker said: "Well, he's young and he's strong. He must have a shot."

Sampras, though, will forget about records and even rackets for a while as he rests up for a fortnight before starting his preparation for the U.S. Open in September.

He will also spend time with Tim Gullikson, his coach who is undergoing chemotherapy for a brain tumour.

mother therapy for a brain tumour.

"It has been six months now since Tim started his treatment and he's getting better. I am going to spend some time with him directly I get home and hopefully he will be able to go some travelling later in the year," Sampras said.

Tarango pulls out of Swiss Open

Wimbledon hothead Jeff Tarango has pulled out of the Swiss Open for fear of a confrontation with an angry Marc Rosset, tournament officials said Monday.

The American player sent shockwaves through the normally sedate Wimbledon fortnight by accusing French umpire Bruno Rebeuh of being "the most corrupt official in the game."

Tarango stormed off court during his third-round Wimbledon match against Alexander Mronz after a dispute with Rebeuh over a line call.

Tarango's French wife, Benedicte, then slapped the

official twice on the face.

Afterwards, Tarango alleged that Rebeuh had shown bias to players for friendship. He named Swiss player Rosset as one of those who had benefited from the official's favoritism.

Tarango was fined a record \$15,500 for the outburst and may now face further fines or suspension following an investigation.

"We understand that some guys from ATP told (Tarango) to go back to the United States because Rosset is here," said Jurg Vogel, a spokesman for the \$560,000 tournament which opened Monday.

"I think it was because of the emotional side. Rosset is a local hero here. He is from nearby Geneva and he was very angry about the allegations," he said.

An earlier statement from Swiss Open organisers said "personal friends of the player had apparently advised him to take this step."

Rosset, in an interview with a Swiss newspaper last week, flatly denied the charges.

ATP tennis rankings

	4980 pts
1. Andre Agassi (USA)	3834
2. Pete Sampras (USA)	3598
3. Boris Becker (Ger)	3401
4. Thomas Muster (Aut)	3025
5. Michael Chang (USA)	2621
6. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro)	2518
7. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus)	2377
8. Wayne Ferreira (RSA)	2187
9. Michael Stich (Ger)	1981
10. Marc Rosset (Swi)	1961
11. Sergi Bruguera (Spa)	1840
12. Magnus Larsson (Swe)	1817
13. Alberto Berasategui (Spa)	1708
14. Jim Courier (USA)	1673
15. Richard Krajicek (Ned)	1671
16. Stefan Edberg (Swe)	1473
17. Andrei Medvedev (Ukr)	1473
18. Thomas Enqvist (Swe)	1370
19. Todd Martin (USA)	1370
20. Andrea Gaudenzi (Ita)	1304

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Les personnes n'ayant pas reçu leur invitation sont priées de se présenter au Consulat, du dimanche au Jeudi, munis d'une pièce d'identité, afin de la retirer. Celle-ci sera demandée à l'entrée.
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No interview is required. approved visas may be collected from the Embassy the same day.

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CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Charlie Sheen & Kristy Swanson in
The Chase
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
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CONCORD "2"
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

America's Cup yachts finally home

AUCKLAND (AFP) — The yachts that New Zealand used earlier this year to win the America's Cup in San Diego were welcomed here by around 200 boats and 5,000 people on Tuesday. The two Black Magic boats — NZL 32 and NZL 38 — arrived without keels and masts and riding on the deck of a container ship. Also on the French-owned ship Direct Kookaburra was OneAustralia, the boat Black Magic defeated in the challenger series. New Zealanders will only get a brief chance to see their winning boats as Team New Zealand plans to lock them in storage in order to prevent syndicates vying for the 2000 challenge from finding their racing secrets.

Body of missing Olympian found

MADISON (AP) — The body of a man believed to be a missing Special Olympics athlete from Nepal was found Monday at the beach where he was presumed drowned four days ago. The body of the person believed to be Ramesh Mail, 21, was found about 1 p.m. at the Meg's Point Section of Hammonasset Beach State Park, a police dispatcher said. Mail disappeared Thursday afternoon while swimming in Long Island sound during a private outing to the beach with his countrymen. Rescuers had been searching the shore off the 2-mile (3.2 kilometres) beach nearly non-stop since he disappeared. Mail's family in Nepal said he had never been to the sea before coming to America, and had never learned to swim. Mail arrived in this country June 26 to participate in the special Olympics world games in New Haven. He was a member of the soccer team.

Bull ponders Coventry move

WOLVERHAMPTON, England (AFP) — Steve Bull is considering an offer to play Premiership football with Coventry after Wolves accepted a 1.5 million pound (about \$2.5 million) bid for their 30-year-old cult hero on Monday. The former England striker has had talks with Sky Blues boss Ron Atkinson after first division Wolves manager Graham Taylor said the decision lies with Bull. But Atkinson knows how difficult it will be for Bull to leave the club to whom he has been steadfastly loyal over the years. Atkinson said: "I know it would be a wrench for Steve to leave Wolves but at least we have gone part of the way down the road to persuading him." Bull is due a testimonial after scoring 251 goals in nine years at Molineux during which time he has never played in the top flight. Taylor and Bull, who signed for Wolves from West Brom for 64,000 pounds in 1986, were locked in further talks on Monday.

Walters set to leave Anfield

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Winger Mark Walters was told on Monday he can leave Liverpool for a cut-price fee as part of an Anfield summer clear-out. The 31-year-old former Aston Villa winger, signed for 1.2 million pounds (about two million dollars) from Rangers four years ago, is likely to fetch around 250,000 pounds. First division Stoke, who had Walters on trial last season, are favourites to sign him. Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson said: "We are looking to prune our staff if we can because we have got rather a large one." Manager Roy Evans has been busy in the close season transfer market buying Nottingham Forest leading scorer Stan Collymore and on a somewhat smaller financial scale Crewe's winger, youngster Francis Tierney.

Nomo to start All-Star game

ARLINGTON (AFP) — Japanese pitcher Hideo Nomo, the sensation of the season, was named as starting pitcher of the National League in the All-Star game here on Tuesday. The 26-year-old Los Angeles Dodgers player has a 6-1 record, has won six consecutive starts with a 0.89 earned run average and is the first Donger rookie to win a place in the All-Stars since Fernando Valenzuela. "This is a dream for me. I thought it was unreachable. It will be the biggest game of my life. I will cherish it for ever," said Nomo, who leads the National League in strikeouts. Randy Johnson of the Seattle Mariners was named as the American League starter. Center fielder Lenny Dykstra of the Philadelphia Phillies will lead off for the National League with Kenny Lofton of the Cleveland Indians leading off for the American League. The rest of the National League team will be San Diego's Tony Gwynn, hitting second and playing right with Barry Bonds of San Francisco batting third, Los Angeles catcher Mike Piazza fourth, Atlanta first baseman Fred McGriff fifth and Cincinnati's Ron Gant, the designated hitter. Cincinnati shortstop Barry Larkin will bat seventh followed by Colorado third baseman Vinny Castilla and Houston second baseman Craig Biggio.

Sampdoria bid farewell to Platt

GENOA (R) — England captain David Platt, leaving Sampdoria for Arsenal next season, was given an emotional farewell by the Italian on Monday. Sampdoria president Enrico Mantovani told the 29-year-old midfielder he was proud Platt had for the Genoese club and would have liked him to stay there longer. "Today is a sad day for me because I must say farewell to a player who in these last few years has won our complete respect and a lot of affection," he told a news conference. "I am proud David has been at Samp. I would have liked to keep him but it was not possible for so many reasons. I won't see David in the blue and white striped shirt again but the friendship and affection will always be there. I am sure that he, when he thinks of Genoa, will carry a piece of Sampdoria in his head and in his heart," Mantovani said.

Sao Paulo final draws near

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Portuguese and Corinthians both won at the weekend to remain neck-and-neck in the Sao Paulo state championship. Portuguesa, unfancied at the start of the season, clinched a 2-1 victory away to Santos with an 87th-minute winner from Caio while Corinthians beat Uniao Sao Joao 2-0 with a penalty from Marcelinho. Portuguesa and Corinthians both have 10 points with two group two games to come in the second stage of the championship. They meet next weekend in a match which is likely to decide the finalist from the group.

Grobbelaar bail date July 24

LONDON (R) — British police on Tuesday extended by three days the date on which Zimbabwean-born goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, Wimbledon's Dutch player Hans Beggars and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu are likely to hear whether charges will be laid over match-fixing allegations. The three plus Fashanu's partner Melissa Kassamapi and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim were released on bail after several hours of questioning last week. They were given police bail until July 21. Police have now extended that to July 24.

Bruno offered Tyson fight as prize

LONDON (AFP) — Frank Bruno's prize for beating WBC heavyweight champion Oliver McCall at Wembley stadium on September 2 would be a mega return fight with Mike Tyson, says American promoter Don King. However, British rival Lennox Lewis has threatened action if Tyson — No. 1 in the WBC rankings without so much as winning a comeback fight — stepped in front of their man Lewis won the right for a crack at his former title by stopping Lionel Butler in May's WBC final eliminator.

King could not be sure when Tyson would be ready to fight for a little in the first step of his campaign to reunify the world championships.

"I think Tyson could win the world title today," King said. "The plan was for Mike to challenge for a world title in his fourth fight, but the decision rests solely with him. He wants to reunify the titles as soon as possible."

"Frank Bruno is going to be making his fourth challenge for the world crown. Usually, when you get three strikes you are out."

"The winner of McCall-Bruno will fight Tyson, so Frank has a lot to gain."

"He had Tyson shook up in their first six years ago. Frank's got the opportunity. He's reaching for the clouds and the clouds, he may get."

Bruno's clash with McCall, postponed from July 22 because the champion from Chicago injured his left arm go-karting, will "easily" pull a crowd of 60,000 to Wembley stadium, reckons King's British partner Frank Warren.

Bruno said: "The delay helps. I'm just thankful it's on. It may help to sell more tickets and give me a chance to get fitter and stronger mentally. Everything helps."

Flamengo debate costs of Romario

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — He returned to Brazil as a national hero. His featherlike touches and dramatic goals made Brazil a four-time World Cup champion and made Romario the FIFA player of the year.

That was last year. Rio club Flamengo spent nearly \$5 million to get the mercurial 29-year-old striker from FC Barcelona on a loan fee earlier this year, and now its wondering if the cost will be even higher — the kind you can't put on a ledger sheet.

Romario has told club management he will continue playing only if he doesn't have to follow all the rules during pre-season training camp. He also wants a new coaching staff.

Manager Vanderlei Luxemburgo, who won the last two Brazilian national titles with Palmeiras of Sao Paulo, has grown tired of Romario — giving the Flamengo front office an ultimatum: either him or me.

The final decision belongs to Flamengo president Kleber Leite.

Rio's Jornal Dos Sports ran a headline that said Luxemburgo could be fired, since there was too much money tied up in Romario.

With the national championship less than a month away, Leite is hoping to get both parties to compromise.

None of the problems with Romario should have come as a surprise to Flamengo.

Barcelona manager Johan Cruyff was constantly irked by Romario's prima donna attitudes and said he wasn't worth the trouble.

Despite angering Cruyff and club management, Romario returned late to Barcelona's training camp last summer after the World Cup, a situation that contributed to his transfer back to Brazil.

Flamengo, one of Brazil's most popular clubs, was only too happy to greet him, expecting to celebrate its 100th year with another title.

With the hiring of Luxemburgo, Flamengo anticipated goals and titles.

Romario scored 26 goals to finish second in Rio state league scoring despite sitting out almost a month with injuries.



Brazil's Romario

But two weeks ago, arch-rival Fluminense scored a last-minute goal to win the state title, and then Gremio beat Flamengo to eliminate it from the Brazil Cup.

Romario reacted by saying he lacked motivation and listed the conditions for him to not retire.

He requested training limited to the goal area, feeling he should be excused from endurance work line running.

And also felt that he should not be required to stay with the team at training camp, an obvious interference with his personal life. On the eve of the Flu-

minense game, Romario was seen in his car with his girlfriend romancing in front of the team's hotel.

"To be an idol on Flamengo, goals are not enough," Flamengo's all-time scorer Zico told Rio Daily O Globo. "Flamengo's young players and fans need a shining example of discipline and sacrifice. Romario doesn't fill the bill."

Flamengo vice-president, Michael Assaf, however, sided with Romario, causing a split in club management.

Training camps are neither military posts nor convents," Assaf told Jornal Do Brasil. "He was hired to

score goals, not to be a gentleman, or a new Zico, for that matter."

Besides Romario and Luxemburgo, Flamengo also has acquired Romario's friend Emundo, nicknamed the "animal" — for \$5 million to create a powerful front line with rookie Savio.

Edmundo, who came from Palmeiras and whose play helped Luxemburgo win two straight national titles, just recorded a rap album with Romario in which they sing "we're bad."

It's just another factor that will add up in Leite's mind when he tries to calculate the cost of Romario.

Copa America

Rincon goal gives Colombia 1-0 win over Ecuador

RIVERA, Uruguay (R) — A well-taken goal by Napoli striker Freddy Rincon gave Colombia a comfortable 1-0 win over neighbours Ecuador in the Copa America on Monday.

Rincon collected an incisive pass from captain Carlos Valderrama and scored with a low, powerful left foot shot from 12 metres on the stroke of halftime in the first round Group B match.

The goal was a fitting reward for Colombia's dominance of the first half.

In the second half, they seemed content to have done the minimum necessary to win and spent most of the time stroking the ball around in midfield.

Rincon himself had missed a fine chance earlier in the first half when he burst into the Ecuadorian area only to fire his shot wide of the goal. Midfielder Herman Gaviria also wasted a gilt-edged chance when he had a free shot at goal from 12 metres but hit the ball harmlessly wide.

Ecuador, a shadow of the team which had chances to beat Brazil before going down 1-0 on Friday, were penned into their own half for most of the game.

Midfielder Alex Aguinaga had their best effort in the 33rd minute when he spotted Colombia goalkeeper Rene Higuita off his line and tried to lob him.

Higuita was caught backpedalling but just got back in time to avoid an embarrassing moment.

Colombia relaxed in the second half, an insipid affair with no real goalscoring chances.

The game was a victory for Colombia coach Hernan Dario Gomez over his former boss Francisco Maturana.

Maturana, now coach of Ecuador, was coach of Colombia until last year and Gomez was his assistant.



Abu Shaqra introduces Nina Ricci

The Abu Shaqra Trading Agency last Wednesday July 5 1995 hosted a dinner to mark its introduction of various products of Nina Ricci into the Jordanian market.

The dinner hosted by the trading agency's general manager Rami Abu Shaqra, was attended by the French firm's representatives, Mr. Nicholas and Ms. Kiera as well as the French commercial attaché in Jordan and a group of invited prominent guests like pharmacists and store owners.

Mr. Abu Shaqra said that Nina Ricci is a leading French firm which produces a wide variety of scent that has been popular around the world. He said that the Abu Shaqra agency has concluded an agreement with Nina Ricci whereby it will serve as the sole agent for the French firm's products in Jordan.

Mr. Nicholas expressed his happiness and confidence in the Abu Shaqra Trading Agency, voicing hope that the Nina Ricci products will be successfully promoted in Jordan at the hands of the Abu Shaqra Trading Agency.

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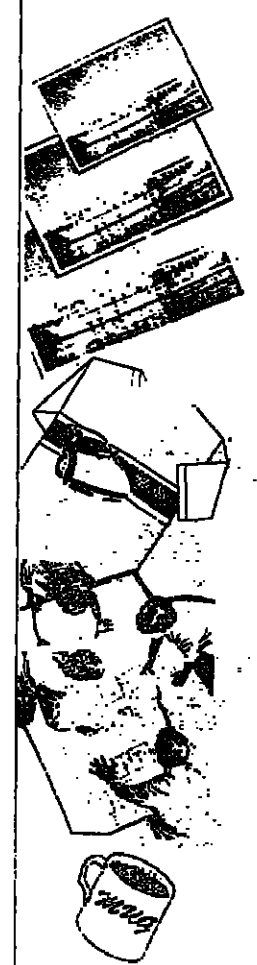
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Sheikh Hamad reshuffles cabinet, succession rules

DUBAI (Agencies) — Qatar's new emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who ousted his father in a palace coup last month, on Tuesday appointed a new government with himself as prime minister and altered the rules of succession.

In decrees published by the official Qatari News Agency, he took over the premiership that was held by his father Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, who is now believed living in exile in the south of France.

Signalling no change in the policies of the small Gulf oil state, Sheikh Hamad, who as crown prince was largely responsible for appointing the previous cabinet three years ago, kept senior ministers such as those for foreign affairs, energy, and finance unchanged.

An army officer trained at Britain's elite Sandhurst Military Academy, Sheikh Hamad also retained his previous posts of defence minister and armed forces commander.

He appointed his brother, Sheikh Abdullah, who strongly supported the move against the previous emir in the bloodless palace coup of June 27, as deputy prime minister in addition to his post of interior minister.

But ending speculation that he might appoint his brother as crown prince, Sheikh Hamad altered the rules of succession to specifically say the succession goes to one of the sons of the emir.

The previous rules said simply that it was hereditary.

The decree said that if the ruler had no sons, the crown prince would be chosen by the emir from among members of the Al Thani ruling family.

Sheikh Hamad introduced four faces to the new 18-man cabinet, three of them from outside the ruling family



Sheikh Hamad Al Thani

which retained nine of the cabinet posts.

The main casualty is his father's long-time aide Isa Ben Ghanem Al Kowari who was replaced as emir court minister by Sheikh Hamad Ben Suhaim Al Thani, the former health minister.

Newcomers were Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khaled Al Thani in the new post of minister of state for cabinet affairs, Ali Said Al Khayree as minister of health, Najeeb Mohammad Al Nuaimi as minister of justice and Ahmad Abdullah Al Mahmoud as minister of state for foreign affairs, another new post.

The former minister of justice, Sheikh Ahmad Ben Saif Al Thani, was appointed minister of state.

The cabinet list did not include a minister of labour, social affairs and housing, the post held in the previous cabinet by Abdul Rahman Saad Al Durham. His fate was not immediately clear.

The decrees announced sweeping changes among senior civil servants, including new chiefs for intelligence, the civil service department and religious courts and new under-secretaries for the ministries of information,

interior, and municipal affairs.

Following is the government announced by Sheikh Hamad:

Crown prince, minister of defence and commander-in-chief of the armed forces — Sheikh Hamad.

First deputy prime minister and minister of interior — Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Minister of state at the emir court — Sheikh Hamad Ben Suhaim Al Thani.

Foreign minister — Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasim Ben Jabor Al Thani.

Minister of finance, economy and trade — Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khaled Al Thani.

Minister of state — Sheikh Ahmad Bin Saif Al Thani.

Minister of state for defence affairs, member of the cabinet and deputy commander-in-chief of the armed forces — Sheikh Hamad Ben Abdullah Al Thani.

Minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs — Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khaled Al Thani.

Minister of municipal affairs and agriculture — Sheikh Ahmad Ben Hamad Al Thani.

Minister of state — Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khaled Al Thani.

Minister of communications and transport — Abdullah Saleh Al Mamel.

Minister of education — Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki.

Minister of power and water — Ahmad Mohammad Ali Al Sabah.

Minister of energy and industry — Abdullah Hamad Al Aidiyah.

Minister of information and culture — Hamad Abdul Aziz Al Kowari.

Minister of public health — Ali Saeed Al Khayree.

Minister of justice — Najeeb Mohammad Al Nuaimi.

Minister of state for foreign affairs — Ahmad Abdullah Al Mahmoud.



ELECTIONS: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Tuesday visits an election centre in the course of polling in the first nationwide municipal elections in Jordan (Photo by Youssef Allan)

Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian free trade, customs union suggested as most viable

Experts' study looks closely at three economies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — The key solution to addressing the economic disparities of the Middle East is free trade among the countries of the region, and a Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian free trade accord eventually leading to a customs union is one of the most viable options, according to a study prepared by Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli experts.

The study, entitled "Towards Free Trade in the Middle East: The Triad and Beyond," recommends that over a five-year period all trade barriers between Jordan and the Palestinian territories of West Bank and Gaza Strip be eliminated, all restrictions on Jordanian products entering Israel be removed and Jordan give Israel concessionary tariffs on selected goods.

Turkey says troops withdraw from Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey pulled its troops out of northern Iraq on Tuesday after sending 3,000 soldiers in a renewed attack against Kurdish rebels, the Foreign Ministry announced.

The raid-type operation came to an end after achieving its goal, the statement said.

About 3,000 Turkish troops, backed by warplanes and helicopters, began on July 5 to strike at Kurdish rebel bases, suspected as launching points for attacks into Turkey. Some 650 rebels were believed to be based in the area.

But fresh battles were reported earlier Tuesday in which 21 guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and seven soldiers were reported killed.

The government put the rebel death toll at 167 at the end of the operation and military losses at 26.

The operation was carried out just south of the border

from the Turkish town of Cukurca.

The reports indicated that the rebels challenged the Turkish army rather than flee deeper inside northern Iraq.

Earlier this spring, a similar, but longer — six-week — Turkish incursion reportedly left 58 soldiers dead.

In the latest offensive, fighting went on as far as 40 kilometres inside northern Iraq in an area where the borders of Turkey, Iran and Iraq converge.

The operation, along a 70-kilometre long area parallel to the border, involved the section of northern Iraq controlled by Iraqi Kurds who want independence from Baghdad. The area is protected by a U.S.-led allied air force.

Turkey blamed the Iraqi Kurdish authorities for not maintaining border security and barring the infiltration of Turkish Kurdish rebels.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemeni president meets Qatar's new emir

DOHA (AFP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh arrived here Tuesday, becoming the first head of state to meet Qatar's new emir, who overthrew his father in a bloodless coup two weeks ago. Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, the defence minister and crown prince who became emir in the June 27 coup, welcomed Mr. Saleh as he began a four-country Arab tour, the official Qatari news agency said. The Yemeni President will later fly to Syria, Jordan and Egypt to bolster ties with them, officials said.

Home-made bombs defused near Jewish colony

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Israeli army defused two explosive devices near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim on the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, a military spokesman said. The home-made bombs were left by the roadside outside the isolated settlement in the centre of the autonomous Strip. It was the third time in a week that the army safely defused bombs near Jewish settlements.

1,500 Swedes stranded in Iran allowed to fly home

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Swedish board of civil aviation decided Tuesday to allow 1,500 travellers from Sweden to fly home with Iran Air Tours even though the board withdrew the Iranian airline's flight permit July 7, the board said. "We have decided today to allow Iran Air Tours to fly the travellers home to Sweden on seven occasions in July and August," the board's policy director, Gustaf Stjernberg, told AFP. Mr. Stjernberg said the decision was made so as "not to inconvenience" the travellers. The aviation board withdrew the company's permit July 7 without warning because it was "illegally flying regular flights instead of charter trips." On charter trips, accommodations must be included in the trip price. Many of the 1,500 travellers are Iranian citizens visiting relatives in Iran, although several groups of Swedish tourists also flew to Tehran with Iran Air Tours.

Dubai traders ignore U.S. embargo on Iran

DUBAI ((AFP) — Distributors of American products in Dubai have been unaffected by President Bill Clinton's ban on trade with Iran, a local newspaper reported. "The U.S. ban is a joke here," one unidentified trader was quoted as saying by the English-language newspaper Gulf News. "U.S. goods will keep going into Iran with or without the ban because they are sold through middlemen," the trader said. However, the newspaper said that there had been a sharp drop in trade with Iran as a result of a currency exchange crisis. The Iranian rial has been on the decline against other currencies, and the central bank of Iran is trying to stabilize its value. Mr. Clinton imposed economic sanctions against Iran in May, accusing Tehran on trying to secure nuclear weapons technology and sponsoring international terrorism. The embargo cut off around \$4 billion in Iranian oil sales to U.S. companies. But it affected mainly direct business dealings between U.S. companies and Iran and American investments in Iran.

IAEA: No substance in Iraq nuclear claims

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations nuclear safeguards agency said on Tuesday it had found no substance in reports that Iraq has been secretly working on technology to build a nuclear bomb.

A spokesman for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said agency nuclear experts who studied the allegations had completed their investigation.

"Our conclusion is that there was no substance in the story," the spokesman said. "It is not considered to be an important issue any more."

The IAEA's probe into whether Iraq was attempting to use a theoretical computer-based model to design nuclear weapons was prompted by a report in the London Sunday Times in April.

The newspaper based its article on documents faxed to it by an Iraqi defector before he disappeared in Greece. Reports also appeared in Greek newspapers.

Energy traders have been keenly watching Iraq's progress in accounting for and destroying its weapons of mass destruction.

Until Baghdad has satisfied the United Nations that it has eradicated such arms, a ban on oil exports imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990 will remain in force.

Iraqi oil exports were worth around \$18 billion a year before the Gulf war.

Members of the U.N. Security Council said last Friday that the sanctions were certain to remain unchanged when it holds a 60-day review of the curbs later this week.

The head of the New York U.N. Commission in charge of ensuring Baghdad destroys its chemical, biological and ballistic weapons, Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekens, made clear last week that Iraq had still not completed all the requirements.

The commission wants to study a report on Iraq's past biological weapons programme, which Baghdad has promised to provide by the end of July.

The IAEA is in charge of overseeing the destruction of all nuclear materials and equipment in Iraq.

The IAEA spokesman said the agency reiterated its findings that there was no nuclear weapons activity in Iraq. The IAEA reported earlier this year that equipment and essential components of Iraq's past nuclear weapons programme had been destroyed, removed or rendered harmless.

Professor Maurizio Zifferero, the agency official who has been in charge of ensuring Iraq dismantled its nuclear projects, also conducted the investigation into the defector's allegations. He questioned the authenticity of the documents when the reports appeared in April.

He said then that inconsis-

tencies in the documents led to a suspicion of forgery.

The discovery after the Gulf war that Baghdad had been developing nuclear weapons came as a blow to the IAEA which had conducted safeguards inspections in Iraq before 1990.

The Iraq case led the IAEA to conduct a review of its inspection procedures. The agency's board of governors backed tougher international checks at a meeting in June and hopes to win agreement for greater access to nuclear sites by the end of the year.

At the U.N., Chinese, French and Russian representatives are ready to act in support of Baghdad as soon as questions about Iraq's disarmament are definitively settled.

Security Council members, in particular the United States, have said the conditions are still not ripe for a lifting of the petroleum embargo, despite Baghdad's recent admission that it had an offensive biological arms programme.

Iraq has tried to negotiate with the U.N. commission the terms of a good-conduct certificate in the disarmament area which would permit, in accordance with paragraph 22 of U.N. Resolution 687, the lifting of an oil embargo that is strangling the economy.

Greenpeace founder loose on French nuclear test site

SYDNEY (Agencies) — The environmentalist group Greenpeace says its founder has infiltrated France's nuclear test site in the South Pacific and is roaming Mururoa atoll undetected.

French commandos using teargas boarded Greenpeace's protest ship, the Rainbow Warrior II, in the South Pacific on Sunday and subdued the crew. The group is trying to block France's resumption of nuclear tests in the atoll.

Rainbow Warrior II Captain David Enever said Monday by satellite telephone that David McTaggart and two comrades slipped into the atoll on an inflatable speedboat while the French commandos seized the ship.

"They are in the area, I wouldn't be any more specific

than that," he said.

Mr. McTaggart said meanwhile he is dying from emphysema.

In an interview broadcast Tuesday on Television New Zealand's (TVNZ) 60 Minutes programme, the 63-year-old Canadian-born campaigner said he had drawn up a will two weeks ago.

He said the lung disease was a consequence of smoking. When asked how long he had to live he replied: "Three years if I don't give up smoking, seven if I do."

He did not say when he received that prognosis or what action he took.

It was for his latest action that he took out the will: "The odds are not very good on this thing."

The programme, which was made last month in Raro-

tonga, the Cook Islands, as the Rainbow Warrior II was en route to Mururoa Atoll, revealed that the operation by Greenpeace's flagship was to act as a decoy for French warships.

Rainbow Warrior II raced for the entrance to the atoll and deployed its four inflatable boats, thus luring the military away from a protest yacht, the Vega, it said.

The Vega then sent Mr. McTaggart, Australian Chris Robinson and Dutch Henk Haazen ashore in a small inflatable to the southern end of Mururoa, the programme said.

French military sources on Mururoa implicitly confirmed the success of the operation.

Troops backed by helicopters were hunting for the renegade launch and its crew.

The Rainbow Warrior II was towed out to sea and its crew rounded up and expelled, although two of its launches managed to break into the atoll and protesters even briefly managed to clamber onto a drilling rig that will be used to bore holes for the test programme, they said.

Mr. McTaggart said the trio aboard the Vega launch plan to "tunnel themselves into a radioactive sand" and disrupt preparations for September's resumption of nuclear tests.

The French army said it will block the entrance to the atoll's lagoon with cables to thwart future attempts to enter it. A tugboat is also posted there to ward off any attempt by Rainbow Warrior II to push its way in.

France has set off more

than 130 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests there since 1966. French nuclear tests are to resume in September after a three-year moratorium.

In Paris, more than 400 French scientists have signed a petition protesting at their country's resumption of nuclear tests in the South Pacific, its organisers said.

The petition rejected as "an insult" the French government's justification for the tests — that they were needed to perfect and calibrate computer simulation techniques.

"It is an insult to public opinion, and is cheating citizens, to suggest that France needs these tests because it doesn't have the means to carry out simulations," it said.

COLUMN

Pakistani lawyer wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

MANILA (AFP) — A Pakistani human rights lawyer who fought to ease her nation's harsh Islamic laws has been chosen to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service, the award foundation announced Tuesday.

Asma Jahangir, founding secretary general of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, was cited for "challenging Pakistan to embrace and uphold the principles of religious tolerance, gender equality, and equal protection under the law."

A 43-year-old lawyer, Ms. Jahangir was arrested for sedition in 1984 under the former military regime of Mohammad Zia Ul Haq. The 1986, she founded a non-governmental human rights commission which documents "the rampant mistreatment and exploitation of women, children, minorities, and labourers."

By religious extremists, the foundation said. Ms. Jahangir also fought to temper her country's harsh Islamic Law by seeking the implementation of international standards of justice in Pakistan, it said. She will receive a medallion and \$50,000 cash prize during award ceremonies in Manila on Aug. 31 along with winners in the fields of government service, community leadership, journalism, literature, creative communication arts and international understanding.

The annual awards are in memory of one of the Philippines' most popular presidents who died in a plane crash in 1957.

Tourists fined for public stripping

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — Four Norwegian and two British men who took everything off and started an impromptu nude dance in the main square of a resort town were slapped with fines. Ayia Napa on the southern coast of Cyprus is a popular spot for topless women sunbathers, but when the six young men stripped to their birthday suits they were rounded up by a police patrol. The district court fined each of them 50 Cypriot pounds (\$113) after they pleaded guilty to "insulting public morality," and apologized for their behaviour. Judge Soula Cleanthous said she thought their actions stemmed from "youthful frivolity and thoughtlessness," but she could not overlook the fact that "it constituted... a provocation to other tourists."

Rescuers pull Italian boy out of well

LECCE, Italy (R) — An Italian boy who slipped down a well on his 13th birthday was rescued and rushed to hospital, RAI television reported. The television said the boy appeared to be alive. The incident, in the village of Nociglia in the heel of Italy, led the late-night news and was eerily reminiscent of a tragedy that traumatised Italy in 1981. Italian news agencies reported that Luca Greco had been celebrating his birthday with friends in the village of Nociglia when he fell through the narrow mouth of the well. They said a porthole reached the boy some 70 metres underground and dragged him to the surface. In 1981, six-year-old Alfredo Rampi fell down a well in Frascati near Rome and survived four days as a succession of firemen and potholers tried in vain to reach him.

3 die after frog fry-up

MANILA (AFP) — Three men died and two others were hospitalised after eating a bullfrog they had caught and fried, Philippine newspapers reported here Tuesday. The five men were having a drinking session in Manila late Sunday when some of them began demanding a tasty snack to go with the booze. One of the group then caught a bullfrog he saw in the streets which they then fried and ate, the newspapers reported. The five then began experiencing dizziness and stomach pains. They were all rushed to a hospital but the three who had eaten the most of the frog expired before they could be treated.

Beirut port and airport strike

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut workers went on strike Wednesday in a bid to force the government to go back to the negotiating table. The strike was announced by Prime Minister Rafic Hariri. It was the latest in a series of strikes in Lebanon's capital since the Middle East Intifada. The strike was announced by Beirut airport officials as well. The port workers' union said all work at the port would stop for 70 per cent of the day. The strike was called by the one-day strike by some 20,000 workers.

Israel arrests Gaza journalist

SCHEMUN JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli security forces detained a Palestinian journalist as he worked at the West Bank newspaper Al-Hayat, the army said Wednesday. Samir Hamad, 30, was arrested on suspicion of working for the Hamas militant group. He was arrested on the Yasser Arafat Bridge.

Three dead in Yemen blast

ADEN (AFP) — Three people were killed in an explosion near an outdoor market in the southern port city of Weddah on Tuesday. The blast was caused by a bomb left behind last year's civil war. Security chief

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